

T H E

ANALYTICAL REVIEW,

For M A R C H, 1791.

ART. I. *Bruce's Travels to discover the Source of the Nile.*

[*Concluded from Vol. VIII. p. 388.*]

OUR extracts from the body of Mr. B.'s travels being now completed, we proceed to the fifth volume, or appendix, which contains select specimens of natural history, collected in Egypt, Arabia, Abyssinia, and Nubia; these, as the author in the preface affixed informs us, were thrown together into one volume, to prevent that confusion or languor which every reader must have felt, who, whilst bent on travelling over a country, or interested by an important fact, finds himself interrupted by a viper, a tortoise, or a nettle.

In the arrangement, the author has placed first, the plants, shrubs, and trees, of which there are eighteen specimens, most of them non-descripts; the quadrupeds follow next, of which, perhaps, the most singular, is a figure of the one-horned rhinoceros, furnished with two horns; these are succeeded by eight plates of birds; the rest are the fishes, of which the binny is the most remarkable; the insects and reptiles are contained in three plates: we shall select, as the most curious and important specimen, the Cerastes, or horned viper, p. 198.

There is no article of natural history the ancients have dwelt on more than that of the viper, whether poets, physicians, or historians. All have enlarged upon the particular sizes, colours, and qualities, yet the knowledge of their manners is but little extended. Almost every author that has treated of them, if he hath advanced some truths which he has less slenderly established by proof or experiment, by way of compensation, hath added as many falsehoods so strongly asserted, that they have occasioned more doubt than the others have brought of light, certainty and conviction.

Lucan, in Cato's march through the desert of the Cyrenæicum in search of Juba, gives such a catalogue of these venomous animals, that we cannot wonder, as he insinuates, that great part of the Roman army was destroyed by them: yet I

will not scruple to aver this is mere fable. I have travelled acrossed the Cyrenaicum in all its directions, and never saw but one species of viper, which was the Ceraastes, or Horned Viper, now before us. Neither did I ever see any of the snake kind that could be mistaken for the viper. I apprehend the snake cannot subsist without water, as the Ceraastes, from the places in which he is found, seems assuredly to do. Indeed those that Lucan speaks of must have been all vipers, because the mention of every one of their names is followed by the death of a man.

There are no serpents of any kind in Upper Abyssinia that ever I saw, and no remarkable varieties even in Low, excepting the large snake called the Boa, which is often above twenty feet in length, and as thick as an ordinary man's thigh. He is a beast of prey, feeds upon antelopes, and the deer kind, which having no canine teeth, consequently no poison, he swallows whole, after having broken all its bones in pieces, and drawn it into a length to be more easily mastered. His chief residence is by the grassy pools of rivers that are stagnant. Notwithstanding which, we hear of the Monk Gregory telling M. Ludolf, that serpents were so frequent in Abyssinia, that every man carried with him a stick bent in a particular manner, for the more commodiously killing these creatures, and this M. Ludolf recommends as a discovery. And Jerome Lobo, among the rest of his fables, has some on this subject likewise. A cold and rainy country can never be a habitation for vipers. We see, on the contrary, that their favourite choice are deserts and burning sand, without verdure, and without any moisture whatever.

The very learned, though too credulous, Prosper Alpinus, says, that many have assured him, that near the lakes contiguous to the sources of the Nile there is a number of basilisks, about a palm in length, and the thickness of a middle finger; that they have two large scales, which they use as wings, and crests and combs upon their head, from which they are called Basilisci or Reguli, that is, crowned, crested, or kingly serpents; and he says, that no person can approach these lakes without being destroyed by these crested snakes.

With all submission to this naturalist's relation, I should imagine he could not have heard the description of these lakes from many travellers, if all those that approach them were killed by the basilisks. I shall only answer for this, that having examined the Lake Gooderoo, those of Court Ohha, and Tzana, the only lakes near the sources of the Nile, I never yet saw one serpent there, whether crowned or uncrowned, nor did I ever hear of any, and therefore believe this account as fabulous as that of the Acontia and other animals he speaks of in this whole chapter. The basilisk is a species of serpent, frequently made mention of in scripture, though never described, farther than that he cannot be charmed so as to do no hurt, nor trained so as to delight in music; which all travellers who have been in Egypt know is exceedingly possible, and frequently seen. "For, behold, I will send basilisks among you, saith the scripture, which will

will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the Lord." And "Thou shalt tread upon the lion and basilisk," &c.

I shall mention one name more, under which the *Ceraastes* goes, because it is equivocal, and has been misunderstood in scripture, that is *Tseboa*, which name is given it in the Hebrew, from its different colours and spots. And hence the Greeks have called it by the name of *Hyæna*, because it is of the same reddish colour, marked with black spots as that quadruped is. And the same fable is applied to the serpent and quadruped, that they change their sex yearly.

Some philosophers, from particular system, have judged from a certain disposition of this animal's scales, that it is what they term, *Coluber*, while others, from some arrangement of the scales of its tail, will have it to be what they call *Boa*. I enter not into the dispute, it is here as faithfully represented as the size will permit, only I shall observe that, unless *Boa* means something more than I know it does, the name is ill-chosen when applied to any species of poisonous serpents, because it is already the proper name of the large snake, just mentioned, that is not viviparous, and has no poison. Pliny and Galen say, that the young vipers are so fierce as to become parricides, and destroy their mother upon their birth. But this is surely one of the ill-grounded fancies these authors have adopted. The *Ceraastes* is mentioned by name in Lucan, and without warranting the separate existence of any of the rest, I can see several that are but the *Ceraastes* under another term. The *thebanus ophites* *, the *ammodytes*, the *torrida dipsas*, and the *prester*, all of them are but this viper described from the form of its parts, or its colours. Cato must have been marching in the night when he met this army of serpents. The *Ceraastes* hides itself all day in holes in the sand, where it lives in contiguous and similar houses to those of the *jerboa*, and I have already said, that I never but once found any animal in this viper's belly, but one *jerboa* in a gravid female *ceraastes*.

I kept two of these last-mentioned creatures in a glass jar, such as is used for keeping sweetmeats, for two years, without having given them any food; they did not sleep, that I observed, in winter, but cast their skins the last days of April.

The *ceraastes* moves with great rapidity, and in all directions, forward, backward, and sideways. When he inclines to surprise any one who is too far from him, he creeps with his side towards the person, and his head averted, till judging his distance, he

* In the course of comparing our author's quotations with the passages themselves, numerous instances of carelessness and want of memory might have been noticed; sometimes writers are quoted for what they never said, and sometimes one name is made responsible for what was said by another. We have forbore to harass Mr. B. with trifling corrections: but on such errors as the present paragraph presents, when the fable is confounded with the animal kingdom, animadversion becomes necessary.

turns round, springs upon him, and fastens upon the part next to him; for it is not true what is said, that the cerasastes does not leap or spring. I saw one of them at Cairo, in the house of Julian and Rosa, crawl up the side of a box, in which there were many, and there lye still as if hiding himself, till one of the people who brought them to us came near him, and though in a very disadvantageous posture, sticking as it were perpendicular to the side of the box, he leaped near the distance of three feet, and fastened between the man's forefinger and thumb, so as to bring the blood. The fellow shewed no signs of either pain or fear, and we kept him with us full four hours, without his applying any sort of remedy, or his seeming inclined to do so.

‘ To make myself assured that the animal was in its perfect state, I made the man hold him by the neck so as to force him to open his mouth, and lacerate the thigh of a pelican, a bird I had tamed, as big as a swan. The bird died in about 13 minutes, though it was apparently affected in 50 seconds; and we cannot think this was a fair trial, because a very few minutes before, it had bit the man, and so discharged part of its virus, and it was made to scratch the pelican by force, without any irritation or action of its own.

‘ The cerasastes inhabits the greatest part of the eastern continent, especially the desert sandy parts of it. It abounds in Syria, in the three Arabias, and in Africa. I never saw so many of them as in the Cyrenaicum, where the jerboa is frequent in proportion. He is a great lover of heat; for though the sun was burning hot all day, when we made a fire at night, by digging a hole, and burning wood to charcoal in it, for dressing our victuals, it was seldom we had fewer than half a dozen of these vipers, who burnt themselves to death approaching the embers.

‘ I apprehend this to be the aspic which Cleopatra employed to procure her death. Alexandria, plentifully supplied by water, must then have had fruit of all kinds in its gardens. The baskets of figs must have come from thence, and the aspic or cerasastes, that was hid in them, from the adjoining desert, where there are plenty to this day; for to the westward in Egypt, where the Nile overflows, there is no sort of serpent whatever that I ever saw: nor, as I have before said, is there any other of the mortal kind that I know in those parts of Africa adjoining to Egypt, excepting the cerasastes.

‘ It should seem very natural for any one, who, from motives of distress, has resolved to put a period to his existence, especially women and weak persons unaccustomed to handle arms, to seek the gentlest method to free themselves from that load of life now become insupportable. This, however, has not always been the case with the ancients. *Aria*, *Petus's* wife, stabbed herself with a dagger, to set her husband an example to die, with this memorable assurance, after giving herself the blow, “*Petus, it is not painful.*” *Porcia*, the wife of *Brutus*, died by the barbarous, and not obvious way of perishing, by swallowing fire; the violent agitation of spirits prevailing over the momentary difference in the suffering. It is not to be doubted but

but that a woman, high-spirited like Cleopatra, was also above the momentary differences in feeling; and had the way in which she died not been ordinary and usual, she certainly would not have applied herself to the invention of a new one. We are therefore to look upon her dying by the bite of the ceraastes, as only following the manner of death which she had seen commonly adopted by those who were intended to die without torment.

Galen, speaking of the aspic in the great city of Alexandria, says, I have seen how speedily they (the aspics) occasioned death. Whenever any person is condemned to die, whom they wish to end quickly and without torment, they put the viper to his breast, and suffering him there to creep a little, the man is presently killed. Pausanias speaks of particular serpents that were to be found in Arabia among the balsam trees, several of which I procured both alive and dead, when I brought the tree from Beder Hunein; but they were still the same species of serpent, only some from sex, and some from want of age, had not the horns, though in every other respect they could not be mistaken. Ibn Sina, called by Europeans Avicenna, has described this animal very exactly; he says it is frequent in Shem (that is the country about and south of Damascus) and also in Egypt; and he makes a very good observation on their manners; that they do not go or walk straight, but move by contracting themselves. But in the latter part of his description he seems not to have known the serpent he is speaking of, because he says its bite is cured in the same manner as that of the viper and ceraastes, by which it is implied, that the animal he was describing was not a ceraastes, and the ceraastes is not a viper, both which assertions are false.

The general size of the ceraastes, from the extremity of its snout to the end of its tail, is from 13 to 14 inches. Its head is triangular, very flat, but higher near where it joins the neck than towards the nose. The length of its head, from the point of the nose to the joining of the neck, is $\frac{1}{12}$ ths of an inch, and the breadth $\frac{2}{12}$ ths. Between its horns is $\frac{3}{12}$ ths. The opening of its mouth, or rictus oris $\frac{8}{12}$ ths. Its horns in length $\frac{3}{12}$ ths. Its large canine teeth something more than $\frac{2}{12}$ ths and $\frac{1}{2}$. Its neck at the joining of the head $\frac{4}{12}$ ths. The body where thickest $\frac{1}{12}$ ths. Its tail at the joining of the body $\frac{2}{12}$ ths and $\frac{1}{2}$. The tip of the tail $\frac{1}{12}$ th. The length of the tail one inch and $\frac{3}{12}$ ths. The aperture of the eye $\frac{2}{12}$ ths, but this varies apparently according to the impression of light.

The ceraastes has sixteen small immoveable teeth, and in the upper jaw two canine teeth, hollow, crooked inward, and of a remarkable fine polish, white in colour, inclining to blueish. Near one fourth of the bottom is strongly fixed in the upper jaw, and folds back like a clasp knife, the point inclining inwards, and the greatest part of the tooth is covered with a green soft membrane, not drawn tight, but as it were wrinkled over it. Immediately above this is a slit along the back of the tooth, which ends nearly in the middle of it, where the tooth curves inwardly. From this aperture I apprehend that it sheds its poison, not from

the point, where with the best glasses I never could perceive an aperture, so that the tooth is not a tube, but hollow only half way; the point being for making the incision, and by its pressure occasioning the venom in the bag at the bottom of the fang to rise in the tooth, and spill itself through the slit into the wound.

‘ By this flat position of the tooth along the jaw, and its being defended by the membrane, it eats in perfect safety; for the tooth cannot press the bag of poison at the root while it lies in this position, nor can it rise in the tube to spill itself, nor can the tooth make any wound so as to receive it, but the animal is supposed to eat but seldom, or only when it is with young.

‘ The viper has but one row of teeth, none but the canine are noxious. The poison is very copious for so small a creature, it is fully as large as a drop of laudanum dropt from a vial by a careful hand. Viewed through a glass, it appears not perfectly transparent or pellucid. I should imagine it hath other reservoirs than the bag under the tooth, for I compelled it to scratch eighteen pigeons upon the thigh as quick as possible, and they all died nearly in the same interval of time; but I confess the danger attending the dissection of the head of this creature made me so cautious, that any observation I should make upon these parts would be less to be depended upon.

‘ People have doubted whether or not this yellow liquor is the poison, and the reason has been, that animals who had tasted it did not die as when bitten, but this reason does not hold in modern physics. We know why the saliva of a mad dog has been given to animals, and has not affected them; and a German physician was bold enough to distil the pus, or putrid matter, flowing from the ulcer of a person infected by the plague, and taste it afterwards without bad consequences; so that it is clear the poison has no activity, till through some sore or wound it is admitted into circulation. Again, the tooth itself, divested of that poison, has as little effect. The viper deprived of his canine teeth, an operation very easily performed, bites without any fatal consequence with the others; and many instances there have been of mad dogs having bit people clothed in coarse woollen stuff, which had so far cleaned the teeth of the saliva in passing through it as not to have left the smallest inflammation after the wound.

‘ I forbear to fatigue the reader by longer insisting upon this subject. A long dissertation would remain upon the incantation of serpents. There is no doubt of its reality. The scriptures are full of it. All that have been in Egypt have seen as many different instances as they chose. Some have doubted that it was a trick, and that the animals so handled had been first trained, and then disarmed of their power of hurting: and fond of the discovery, they have rested themselves upon it, without experiment, in the face of all antiquity. But I will not hesitate to aver, that I have seen at Cairo (and this may be seen daily without trouble or expence) a man who came from above the catacombs, where the pits of the mummy birds are kept, who

who has taken a cerastes with his naked hand from a number of others lying at the bottom of the tub, has put it upon his bare head, covered it with the common red cap he wears, then taken it out, put it in his breast, and tied it about his neck like a necklace; after which it has been applied to a hen, and bit it, which has died in a few minutes; and, to complete the experiment, the man has taken it by the neck, and beginning at his tail, has ate it as one would do a carrot or a stock of celery, without any seeming repugnance.

' We know from history, that where any country has been remarkably infested with serpents, there the people have been screened by this secret. The Pfylli and Marmarides of old undoubtedly were defended in this manner,

Ad Quorum cantus mites Jacuere Cerastra.

SIL. ITAL. lib. iii.

' To leave ancient history, I can myself vouch, that all the black people in the kingdom of Sennaar, whether Funge or Nuba, are perfectly armed against the bite of either scorpion or viper. They take the cerastes in their hands at all times, put them in their bosoms, and throw them to one another as children do apples or balls, without having irritated them by this usage, so much as to bite. The Arabs have not this secret naturally, but from their infancy they acquire an exemption from the mortal consequences attending the bite of these animals, by chewing a certain root, and washing themselves (it is not anointing) with an infusion of certain plants in water.

' One day when I was with the brother of Shekh Adelan, prime minister of Sennaar, a slave of his brought a cerastes which he had just then taken out of a hole, and was using it with every sort of familiarity. I told him my suspicion that the teeth had been drawn, but he assured me they were not, as did his master Kittou, who took it from him, wound it round his arm, and at my desire ordered the servant to carry it home with me. I took a chicken by the neck, and made it flutter before him; his seeming indifference left him, and he bit it with great signs of anger, the chicken died almost immediately; I say his seeming indifference, for I constantly observed, that however lively the viper was before, upon being seized by any of these barbarians he seemed as if taken with sickness and feebleness, frequently shut his eyes, and never turned his mouth towards the arm of the person that held him. I asked Kittou how they came to be exempted from this mischief? he said, they were born so, and so said the grave and respectable men among them. Many of the lighter and lower sort talked of enchantments by words and by writing, but they all knew how to prepare any person by medicine, which were decoctions of herbs and roots.

' I have seen many thus armed for a season do pretty much the same feats as those that possessed the exemption naturally, the drugs were given me, and I several times armed myself, as I thought, resolved to try the experiment, but my heart always failed me when I came to the trial; because among these wretched people it was a pretence they might very probably have sheltered them-

themselves under, that I was a Christian, that therefore it had no effect upon me. I have still remaining by me a small quantity of this root, but never had an opportunity of trying the experiment.

‘The reader will attend to the horn which is placed over the eye, in the manner I have given the figure of it; it is fluted, and has four divisions. He will likewise observe the tooth as viewed through a glass. He may suppose the black represents a painter’s pallet, for the easier discerning the white tooth, which could not otherwise appear distinctly upon the white paper.’

Having thus, with as much perspicuity and as little interruption as was in our power, and with equal impartiality analysed the work of our author, we might safely leave him to the verdict of our readers, for whose penetration we have too sincere a respect to suppose them in want of any comment or directing hint of our own, for judging what to admit, what to reject, or on what shelf to place this writer. But acute as many of our readers certainly are, there is still a greater number unable or unwilling to help themselves, who like the male guests of an Abyssinian feast, choose to have the viands made up into a spiced cartridge, and without further trouble thrust into their mouths: for these, we must undertake the office of the Ethiopian ladies, and feed them without the trouble of carving or selection.

An air of truth, and consonance of parts, are the great requisites of every narrative, delivered to the public with an air of gravity. After having considered these volumes as a whole, and in their various parts poised the evident against the questionable, proof against assertion, compared facts with characters and manners, produce with the soil, and phænomena with the climate; separated reasonable conclusion from hasty surmise, and probabilities from mere hypothesis and wild conjecture.—The impression remained, the conclusion in the main was drawn in favour of our author’s relation.

That the materials of perhaps two volumes, have been scattered over five; that a deluge of apparent improbabilities, inaccuracies, prejudices, conceits, contradictions, impotent witticisms, and stunning egotisms, has been poured over the mass of real information, vigorous description, sublime imagery, and pathetic scenes, we most deeply lament. Had the author, so conversant in Greek wisdom and language, remembered, as he sat down to write, the advice of Hesiod, he need not now be told, that the half of his work would have been better than the whole.

That unwariness, that very boldness with which our author has rushed on the public ear, uncourted and unprepared, with the most questionable of his tales, in an age of universal scepticism, speaks to us in his favour more than if he had stolen by degrees upon credulity, and begged that assent which he
could

could not command. What advantages could arise from the obstinacy of relating improbable or abominable customs, if they were not true? from talking of cattle, that are the mere appendages of their horns, from invigorating jessamines to oaks, or swelling capers to peaches?—To be loathed by the delicate, shunned by the cautious, and laughed at by the critic, is a price few will, or dare to pay, for the pleasure of anticipating truths which time alone can authenticate.

If it be said, that the desire of raising astonishment is a motive sufficiently strong to account for any tissue of marvels and prodigies, some attention ought to be paid to the nature of works and the class of the writer. All we expect of the epic poet, or the writer of romance, is to fascinate us by their winged machinery whilst we read or hear, a momentary tax is levied on our fancy: but a narrative which pretends to augment the stock of truth, appeals to other judges; a tribute exacted from judgment and cool deliberation, will be discussed with severity before it be obtained, and if the strange be not rejected, it is merely because it is every where fenced in with what must be credited. We pause at the cow that travels whilst it is fed on; we are alarmed at the bellowing banquet; but when we see them surrounded by place, incident, manners, characters, whose existence we cannot one moment hesitate to admit, we submit, if yet we do not credit. Internal evidence, indeed, has been called with little success before the tribunal of modern criticism; the lists of literary forgery are still graced with the names of Macpherson and Chatterton, and the inference, that it is preferring a miracle to incomplete proof, by supposing them the authors rather than the compilers of the works they published, has had little effect on their poetic juries. It cannot, therefore, be supposed that a milder verdict will be given by those who arrogate to themselves the right of setting the limits of possibility, of deciding what is admissible or not in narrative. But to suppose Mr. B. the inventor rather of his tale, than its historian; to suppose that the description of the Theban sepulchres, and the ruins of Axum, of Taranta, Lalmalmon, the Galla and Shangalla, of Teawa and Sennaar, of the Nubian desert, and its pillars of sand; the delineation of the Naibe, Achmet, and the assembly at Masuah, of Ras Michael, and Ozoro Esther, of Fasil and Adelan; the description of the cerastes, the zimb, the binny: to suppose that these, and numbers more are a tissue of fables to amuse the idle, impose upon the credulous, and perplex the critic, is in fact, swelling the powers of man beyond their known size; an assertion, which as it hurls Mr. B. from his place among historians, erects for him a solitary throne of unlimited, and hitherto unknown powers,

This

This inference, we think, gains additional strength from the author's own character, as exhibited by himself. Whatever may be the powers of the mind, invention of such variety and size could never be lodged in him. Perseverance, and a lofty opinion of himself excepted, he appears to us to have not possessed many of the requisites that could qualify him for his undertaking in an eminent degree. If he be learned, he is far from being correct; he is oftener betrayed than assisted by his memory; he magnifies what is in itself of little value, and passes rapidly by what ought to have commanded his utmost attention. The want of spur or bridle have done more to degrade his narrative, than all the objections of his antagonists. But through this misty medium, the images, characters, and descriptions continue to pierce, and leave impressions that will not be easily effaced. What other reasons can be assigned for this, but that they are founded on a base not to be shaken—on truth? The man vanishes, the objects remain.

With regard to Mr. B.'s principal object of travel, the discovery of the Nile, we own ourselves disappointed. Whether the sources he went to discover, still remain undiscovered, only in his fancy; whether they were those sources which antiquity had in vain been in search of or not, neither our ability, leisure, or the limits of this paper permit us discuss. But it is the road he travelled over, and not the marsh it led him to, that entitles him to our esteem. *Taranta* ought to have led to another river, and nothing less than the Nubian desert can atone to the reader for the lamentable wit and disappointments at *Gesh*. Neither the additional urn with which he graced the stores of the watry god, nor the geographic inaccuracies of his predecessors so triumphantly insisted on, can persuade us that the Portuguese have not a prior right to the honours he claims, whatever they may be; the argument which he employs to shew that the jesuits never trod the sacred spot, must prove, that he was never at Teawa.

As it is by all admitted, were it only for the firman obtained in favour of English commerce, that Mr. B. did visit the countries which he describes, it is matter of little importance, even if information could be obtained, to ascertain what helps he had in forming his materials; we disdain to join in the industrious and charitable inquiry, whether the drawings exhibited were his own or another's; or whether his power of designing was confined to the scenes of his travels, and left him the moment he touched European ground. Mr. B. may resemble Tigellius, whom nothing could keep silent but a request to sing. The question is: are these drawings faithfully descriptive of what they represent? If no other proofs of their want of authenticity be produced, but the Egyptian Harper's resemblance to the Grecian profile and the Apollo's face, the designer

designer or the publisher of the design may rest secure: exposed to such criticism, nothing that passes through the hands of designer and engraver, can ever be deemed authentic. Will any one believe that the women of Otaheite, and the men of the Sandwich Islands, possessed that air which they acquired under the hands of *Bartolozzi* and *Sherwin*? But the fact is, that the harpers of Mr. B. bear no more resemblance to the Apollo than the author of that criticism himself; and Mr. B. need only regret that the charge brought by the same critic, against his latitudes, is better founded than the one produced against his harpers.

Charges of greater importance might have been made against his botanic drawings, though beautifully executed, if we had not been warned by himself, not to expect sexual, or systematic exactness; for according to him, the botanic draughtsman ought to be ignorant of system. This qualification, it cannot be denied, he frequently possesses; and much classification could not be expected from one who mistakes the footstalks of the leaves for branches, and who inscribes with the name of *BANKS*, a plant, totally and specifically different from every species of another, which already bears that name. From such mistakes, it might not be too severe to conclude, that he drew up his descriptions from the drawings, and not from the original plants.

In the drawings of quadrupeds, birds, fishes, insects, and reptiles, there is a very dissimilar merit. The quadrupeds are the worst; the birds are more picturesque. The description of the *Nisser-Werk*, agrees so closely with that of the *Lammergeyer*, or Vulture of the Helvetic Alps, that we consider the appellation of eagle, as a mere vulgarism. Of insects, there is but the zimb, and that, as we have formerly observed, seems sufficiently exact relatively to its genus. The figure of the *Cerastes* is admirable, and could not have been drawn from any thing but a living original, notwithstanding its resemblance in structure to one in the transactions of the R. S. We wonder Mr. B. who loves the vigorous products, the larger dimensions of nature, did not make it a point to treat us with the *Boa*, which, he tells us, is an inhabitant of Abyssinia; the *Madre d'acqua* of *Condamine*, the *Anacondo* of the east, and the Giant-snake of the Norway-seas, would then have had a companion from the South.

The Abyssinian chronicle, which composes the second volume, has been considered by some as superfluous; for little, we are told, can be learned from the annals of a barbarous people, at this day unable to make a fishing-net. The author, they say, might have employed his time to better purposes, by tracing the monuments scattered over those parts of *Natolia* and *Barbary* which he had previously visited. Without treating

ing those who make this objection superciliously, as mere antiquarians, without applying to them what has been acutely observed, on a kindred class of scholars, that all questions, even those on the rights of nations and kingdoms, when discussed by grammarians, are turned into quarrels about grammar, we may safely ask them with the old woman in Euripides,

Τὶ δὲ το Ναιλω μεμπλον ἐστὶ σοι γινος; —“What have the Abyssinians done to you, that they should not be talked of?”

It is the characteristic of this age, to look on man, stripped of artificial endowments, as the least important object of philosophic inquiry: it was surely doing more for the human race, to give us the annals of a people now existing, than to pore over the questionable monuments of past races: it was, at this moment, doing more for the instruction of society, struggling for emancipation from the yoke of bigotry and tyrants, to produce a new document from a living nation, than it is the nature of political and religious despotism to prolong the infancy of men to the end of time, than to treat us with posies of puny inscriptions, or Cyrenaic basso-relievo's. In these annals, we have a new and powerful instance of the mind's never-ceasing activity, let the direction of energy be what it may. We see a nation of considerable antiquity, with many advantages of situation and climate, still at the threshold of human knowledge, without curiosity, without science, without arts, and nearly brutal, on one hand, whilst the same people are exhibited for ages back, trammelled in all the tricks, accomplished in every mystery of vice, the rivals of the Portuguese and Spaniard in courtly intrigue and religious imposture: and is there no lesson to be drawn from this, or is it less food for the mind to pursue the Ethiopian through the windings of active life, than to settle the dynasty under which an Asiatic lived, or fix a Greek to his Olympiad?

R. R.

ART. II. *A Tour up the Straits from Gibraltar to Constantinople, with the leading Events in the present War between the Austrians, Russians, and the Turks, to the Commencement of the Year 1789.* By Capt. Sutherland, of the 25th Regiment. Second Edition. 8vo. Pages 372. Price 6s. in boards. Johnson. 1791.

THE first letter commences with a journal of our author's voyage from Gibraltar to Almesia, in August 1787, with some account of Ceuta, and of the introduction of the Moors or Saracens into Spain, by the resentment of count Julian, whose daughter was ravished by Roderigo, the Gothic monarch of Spain, and who requesting the assistance of the African moors, to revenge his wrongs, was the first cause of introducing these invaders into his country.

Our

Our author dates his second letter from Carthagera, and it contains a military description of the place, with an historical account of the principal transactions, which from time to time have taken place there, and particularly in the succession war in 1705. In the third letter we have some account of Cagliari, and a very affecting story of a beautiful nun in Sardinia, of the name of Lucilla. The description of Cagliari is carried on through the succeeding epistle, which concludes with some remarks on the commerce, &c. of Sardinia.

From the fifth to the tenth letter we find our author at Naples, and his description of the curiosities of that country, tho' short, is lively and interesting. His account of the hermit of Vesuvius we cannot help transcribing from its singularity; page 64.

' Father Pietro, the hermit, received us with great hospitality; and, although turned of eighty, he is by no means insensible to those charms of society which are consistent with the gravity of his order. He seemed a person of a liberal education, spoke with great judgment of the ancients, and was well informed of the state of Europe at the time of his retirement. In the course of conversation, he mentioned his having been in England, which led us to enquire in what capacity. Conceive our surprize, when this venerable sage told us that he had been a French hair-dresser! But the frankness and the grace with which he made this declaration, increased our esteem; and his conversation proved, that however low his origin, his abilities and application had raised him superior to most of us.

' His habitation is a comfortable cottage, with a chapel, and a shrubbery adjoining, at the extremity of one of the small mountains, of which there are several round Vesuvius; and although half way up to the crater, this spot is secured from the lava by a ridge which separates it from the great cone; and should the burning matter run in this direction, it would be thrown on each side. But it is not impossible that he may some day be surrounded by it; and he is always exposed to the stones and ashes thrown up by the mountain.'

The description of Pompeia is curious. P. 78.

' No lava having ever gone over the ashes which buried Pompeii, it was much easier cleared (than Herculaneum). Three divisions are quite open. The first is a small square, which, our Cicerone told us, was the soldiers quarters. There are several small apartments round it; in one of which we saw the skeletons of seventeen poor wretches, who were confined by the ancles in an iron machine. Many other bodies were found, some of them in circumstances which plainly shew that they were endeavouring to escape when the eruption overtook them. Near the barracks, there is a theatre, and a temple of Isis; but, as all their ornaments have been removed, they have now little but their antiquity to make them worth seeing.

' But a little farther, two streets, with all their houses, are entirely cleared, and look like a small town, lately abandoned.

The

The streets are just wide enough for two carriages to pass each other; and the ruts worn by the wheels, are still to be seen, as well as names, and several military figures, cut in a rough manner by the soldiers on the walls of their quarters. A path is raised on each side of the street, for foot passengers.

‘Most of the houses have a terrace at top, in the Italian style; and some of them have baths and stoves to heat the walls. The floors, in general, are paved with mosaic of the common kind; and the sides of the rooms were all ornamented with paintings on the bare plaster, which we call *in disleppe*. Some of them are exceedingly beautiful; but most of the best have been taken away. Among those that remain, the most striking are, Narcissus pining for his own figure; Orpheus and Eurydice; Diana and Endymion; variety of dogs and game; several dishes of fish, fowl and vegetables; a capital helmet; some beautiful landscapes, and light festoons of the most elegant patterns: all as perfect as the day they were painted.’

From Naples Mr. Sutherland proceeded to the coast of Salerno, and landed to view the ruins of Pestum, of which the ancient walls are two miles in circumference, and 18 feet thick. On the fourth of October they passed Shombolo, and on the fifth entered the famous straits of Scylla and Charybdis. A description of Messina, with some account of the late earthquake, occupies a considerable part of the twelfth letter, which concludes with a short history of the island of Sicily. The thirteenth contains a description of Zante, Ithaca, and the promontory of Leucate, or the lover’s leap, with some observations on the Turkish policy in the Archipelago, &c. The fourteenth is dated from Smyrna, it contains an account of Milo, Paros, and Attica; and the commerce, &c. of Smyrna itself forms the subject of the succeeding letter. The sixteenth is entirely occupied by political remarks on the war between the Russians and the Turks. Our author’s journey to Ephesus is related in the seventeenth letter, which also contains some speculations concerning the war.

On the 19th of January 1788, our author left Smyrna, and on the 25th entered the Piræus, the celebrated port of Athens; from this circumstance our author is led into a short and entertaining dissertation on the history of Greece. Athens in its present state, we find, still contains 10,000 inhabitants, and has lately been surrounded by a wall to defend it from the Albanians, who are ripe for a revolt. A military account of the battle of Marathon concludes the nineteenth letter, and the twentieth is employed chiefly on a short view of the Greek and Mahometan religions.

From Smyrna Mr. S. returned to Leghorn, from which he set off on the 18th of March, in order to visit Florence. Of the present emperor, then duke of Tuscany, he gives a most favourable character, as a patron of the fine arts, and as a hu-

mane

man and judicious monarch. His liberality with respect to the Florentine gallery is worthy imitation. P. 266.

‘Formerly, people of humble fortunes were secluded from the view of these treasures, by the extortion of the attendants; but their salaries have been lately increased, and they are prohibited from accepting presents, on pain of losing their places. The poorest peasant has now a right to amuse himself at his leisure in every part of the gallery, and admittance is refused to nobody but servants. It affords matter of surprise to an Englishman, that valets de chambres, and footmen, who have so much influence every where else, are here excluded from places that are open to the lowest of every other tribe.’

The following is a specimen of the good policy with which he regulated his late territories. P. 267.

‘By a law, as uncommon as it is just, a breach of modesty is as severely punished in the male as in the female sex; and a seducer, be his rank what it will, is obliged to marry the object he has polluted. None of either sex are permitted to shut themselves up in convents; and marriage is highly encouraged. Such, indeed, is this prince’s success in promoting morality, and preventing vice among his people, that, different from most capitals, the women are innocent and healthy, as well as beautiful; and assassinations and robberies are here no longer heard of.’

Of the curiosities of Florence so much has been said by other travellers, that we shall only remark of our author’s description, that it is short and lively.

In the twenty-fourth letter we find Mr. S. returned to Naples, and as a recent eruption of Vesuvius afforded him an opportunity of observing one of its most curious phenomena, we indulge ourselves in a short extract. P. 294.

‘The violence of the eruption is over; and it has now more of the curious and beautiful, than of the awful and sublime. The side of the mountain has closed, and the lava issues from it, without its source being seen, in a stream of liquid fire, at present not more than four feet wide. It moves at a slow rate, and, although so much a fluid as to be capable of this motion, yet it has such a degree of solidity, that stones of some pounds weight, thrown with force, did not penetrate its surface. No flame was emitted by the lava, except when we threw sticks, paper, or other combustible matter upon it, which immediately took fire, and blazed. Water had no effect, but that of blackening, for a moment, the part it fell upon.’

Returning to Palermo we find in the twenty-fifth letter rather a ludicrous account of preserving the dead there, by drying up the corpse, and preserving it in a niche against the wall. P. 302.

‘The physiognomies of the deceased are so ludicrously mutilated, and their muscles so contracted and distorted in the drying, that no French mimick could equal their grimaces. Most of the corpses have lost the lower part of the nose—their necks are generally a little twisted—their mouths drawn awry in one direction—their

—their noses in another—their eyes sunk and pointed different ways—one ear perhaps turned up—the other drawn down, &c.

On the 24th of May Mr. S. returned to Smyrna, whence an opportunity offering, he set sail for Constantinople on the 25th of October following. Nothing can be more delightful, according to our author's account, than the voyage up the straits of the Dardanelles. The traveller is, however, disappointed when he arrives at the city. The streets are miserable, and the buildings but paltry. P. 350.

Some of the mosques are tolerable edifices, however different from our taste in the ornamental part of architecture. To these christians are prohibited access; but the Turks, like other people, are not always proof against bribery. I have been shewn several, and among the rest, the celebrated one of St. Sophia, supposed to have been built by Constantine the Great. But in which I was very much disappointed. The dome only is tolerable. It is supported by two tier of columns of verde antique. From this style of architecture, and the value of the marble, one would expect a rich and elegant appearance, but the magnificent effect of the double tier of columns, is lost by the entablature being supported by arches, which reduces the columns to mere piers; and thus, in comparison of other works of the ancients, the design becomes poor and inelegant. The capitals are by no means chaste, and the architecture throughout is very indifferently executed.

The navy hospital, though small, would do credit to any nation; and some of the grand signior's summer palaces, constructed in the Chinese style, display an elegant neatness which could not be surpassed, even by that ingenious people. But the Seraglio, as far as I was admitted, has nothing to boast of.

Of the late sultan Mr. S. gives a very amiable character, and remarks in particular his constant attachment to one wife. The whole standing army of the Turks does not exceed 26,000, and the Janissaries are much relaxed and fallen off in discipline and consequence. The late grand vizier broke a whole regiment of them for discontent; a severity which none of his predecessors durst have practised. P. 352.

I have already seen the grand signior several times, for he goes publicly to mosque every Friday; and I attended the Prussian envoy when he had his audience of the Caimacan, or acting grand vizir, from whom I had the honor of receiving a muslin handkerchief. It is not very fine, being only intended as a mark of amity, for the Turks strictly adhere to the Oriental custom of giving presents, and their government seems to retain much of its primitive institution. Civil and religious law, as in the days of the Patriarchs, form but one code. The Coran is the book, and the musti the head of both. Like the practice of earlier ages, also, he who rules the state in time of peace, leads her armie in times of war. Thus the grand vizir is at once prime minister, as well as captain-general, and commander in chief of the forces. The police of the town resembles the discipline

cipline of a camp; the people retire at dusk, patrols are established, and in case of fire, or any other alarm, the grand signior himself, and all the great officers are immediately abroad. Were the sovereign to neglect appearing on occasions of this kind, it would be thought as great a reflection on him, as if, as a general, he remained in his tent when his camp was attacked.

As his stay was but short on this tour, and as Mr. S. resided for near a year on another occasion at the capital of Turkey, he purposes resuming the subject in another volume, should he receive sufficient encouragement to proceed; an encouragement, which, for our own parts, we shall be happy to see extended to this agreeable and entertaining traveller.

In the latter letters there are some copious details of the military operations of the Turks and Russians. E.

ART. III. *Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester.* Vol. III. 8vo. 648 pages, and 5 Plates. Price 7s. in boards. Warrington, Eyres. London, Cadell. 1790.

It is with much satisfaction that we receive a volume from the respectable Manchester Society, though after a considerable interval of silence. Near five-sixths of the present volume are written by the home members—Percival, Ferriar, Henry, Cooper, and Watt, who, from the value of their productions, appear capable of giving consequence to any society: and we are so far from considering the want of foreign papers, from being any proof of want of vigor, in an institution of this nature, that we do not hesitate to appeal to experience for a proof, that the importance of every society has ever depended on the abilities of its active members. The early volumes of the Royal Society will shew how much was done by a few great men, and some of the late volumes will shew how little comes forward when the men of abilities form themselves into an inactive tribunal, waiting for papers to judge of, instead of producing any themselves. To return, however, from this digressive observation, we shall proceed to give an account of the volume before us.

The laws of the society, and list of members, are prefixed to this volume, and the papers are;

1. *An Enquiry into the Principles and Limits of Taxation, as a Branch of moral and political Philosophy.* By Thomas Percival, M. D. F. R. S. London and Edinburgh, &c. &c.

The contributions exacted by government from the individuals of every state are payable in return for, or to procure that protection which the individual could neither with expedience, power, nor justice secure to himself. This being the case, it becomes as much the moral duty of the individual to

pay taxes without fraud or evasion, as it would become the same individual to pay his share of any other general reckoning for enjoyments shared in common with others. In this view we see an abstracted, though clear, statement of the obligation; but there are various collateral circumstances which tend to modify its efficacy. The government must be duly constituted; the tax must be employed for the public good; it must be impartially levied; not oppressive nor exorbitant, beyond the measure of the protection paid for; and on the other hand, the decision respecting these particulars must operate on the minds and actions of the public, according to a certain expediency dependant on the consequences likely to arise from resistance or refusal. These, and many other interesting particulars, are discussed by Dr. Percival in the present memoir, which was written on the occasion of an attempt to extend the odious and tyrannic system of excise to the cotton manufacture.

2. *Of popular Illusions, and particularly of medical Demonology.*
By John Ferriar, M. D.

Very considerable effects have in all ages been produced by the errors of superstition and popular illusion, and these effects were not produced by the ignorance of the vulgar, but in their most fatal cases arose from the exertions of active, and in other respects, enlightened minds. Again, if we turn our attention to the effects of credulity, and the peculiar working of the imagination, even in our own times, as witnessed by the variety of mystical sects at present subsisting, and the influence of animal magnetism in one of the most enlightened cities in Europe, we shall find the subject of popular illusions, to be as highly deserving of description and enquiry as perhaps any other, whether relating to the philosophy of the human mind, or the good government of society. Dr. Ferriar has treated it with much elegance, much philosophical acuteness, and has besides rendered his memoir in an eminent degree entertaining. It may conduce to the entertainment and surprize of the reader to peruse the following narrative, which will probably give rise to reflections of a still more important kind. P. 114.

‘ On the 13th of June, 1783, George Lukins, of Yatton in Somersetshire, was exorcised in the temple church, at Bristol, and delivered from the possession of seven devils, by the efforts of seven clergymen. An account of his deliverance was published in several of the public papers, authenticated by the Rev. Mr. Easterbrook, vicar of the Temple church in Bristol, from which I extract a few particulars.

Lukins was first attacked by a kind of epileptic fit, when he was going about acting Christmas plays, or mummeries: this he ascribed to a blow given by an invisible hand. He was afterwards seized by fits, during which, he declared with a roaring voice that

that he was the devil, and sung different songs in a variety of keys. The fits always began and ended with a strong agitation of the right hand. He frequently uttered dreadful execrations during the fits. The whole duration of his disorder was 18 years.

At length, viz. in June 1788, he declared that he was possessed by seven devils, and could only be freed by the prayers (*in faith*) of seven clergymen. Accordingly the requisite force was summoned, and the patient sung, swore, laughed, and barked, and treated the company with a ludicrous parody on the *Te Deum*. These astonishing symptoms resisted both hymns and prayers, till a small, faint voice admonished the ministers to adjure. The spirits, after some murmuring, yielded to the adjuration, and the happy patient returned thanks for his wonderful cure. It is remarkable, that during this solemn mockery, the fiend swore "by his infernal den," that he would not quit his patient; an oath, I believe, no where to be found but in the Pilgrim's Progress, from which Lukins probably got it.

Very soon after the first relation of this story was published, a person, well acquainted with Lukins, took the trouble of undeceiving the public with regard to his pretended disorder, in a plain, sensible narrative of his conduct. He asserts, that Lukins's first seizure was nothing else than a fit of drunkenness; that he always foretold his fits, and remained sensible during their continuance; that he frequently saw Lukins in his fits, "in every one of which, except in singing, he performed not more than most active young people can easily do;" that he was detected in an imposture with respect to the clenching of his hands; that after money had been collected for him, he got very suddenly well; that he never had any fits while he was in St. George's hospital, in London; nor when visitors were excluded from his lodgings, by desire of the author of the Narrative; and that he was particularly careful never to hurt himself by his exertions during the paroxysm.

Is it for the credit of this philosophical age, that so bungling an imposture should deceive seven clergymen into a public act of exorcism? This would not have passed even on the authors of the *Malleus Maleficarum*, for they required signs of supernatural agency, such as the suspension of the possessed in the air, without any visible support, or the use of different languages, unknown to the demoniac in his natural state.

Manferunt, hodieque manent vestigia ruris.

3. *Letter on Attraction and Repulsion.* By the Rev. A. Bennet.

Mr. Bennet has very well explained the great undulation of oil covered with water, when the vessel is swung about; a fact we think first mentioned by Dr. Franklin in his letters, and considered by him as very difficult of solution. He refers it to the difference between the velocities of the lower and upper parts of the fluid, when in vibration, and shews, that a solid cylinder, suspended on its (horizontal) axis, has a simi-

lar undulation, as indeed all bodies have which are not suspended by their center of oscillation, a thing impracticable, because that center is below the center of gravity. This object was considered by Huygens as materially affecting the vibration of pendulums.

From the hydrostatic effect of water, or floating bodies, in which, according to circumstances, it produces either attraction or repulsion, or rather approach and recess, Mr. Bennet takes occasion to infer, that the repulsions of electricity, magnetism, and others, may be occasioned by some fluid or fluids.

4. *Essay on the dramatic Writings of Massinger.* By John Ferriar, M. D.

The strong and elegant writer of this dissertation endeavours to draw the public notice upon a writer, not often much inferior, and sometimes nearly equal to the wonderful Shakespeare. It is impossible to concentrate or abridge an essay upon a variety of dramatic productions, which necessarily give rise to remarks and observations, that, however judicious and instructive, cannot be sufficiently connected to admit of a general prospect of the whole. We shall, therefore, quote his own summary view of this writer's merit. P. 155.

'The prevailing beauties of his [Massinger's] productions are dignity and elegance; their predominant fault is want of passion. The melody, force, and variety of his versification are every where remarkable: admitting the force of all the objections which are made to the employment of blank verse in comedy, Massinger's possesses charms sufficient to dissipate them all. It is indeed equally different from that which modern authors are pleased to stile blank verse, and from the flippant prose so loudly celebrated in the comedies of the day. The neglect of our old comedies seems to arise from other causes, than from the employment of blank verse in their dialogue; for, in general, its construction is so natural, that in the mouth of a good actor it runs into elegant prose. The frequent delineations of perishable manners in our old comedy, have occasioned this neglect, and we may foresee the fate of our present fashionable pieces, in that which has attended Johnson's, Fletcher's, and Massinger's: they are either entirely overlooked, or so mutilated, to fit them for representation, as neither to retain the dignity of the old comedy, nor to acquire the graces of the new.

'The changes of manners have necessarily produced very remarkable effects, on theatrical performances. In proportion as our best writers are farther removed from the present times, they exhibit bolder and more diversified characters, because the prevailing manners admitted a fuller display of sentiments, in the common intercourse of life. Our own times, in which the intention of polite education is to produce a general, uniform manner, afford little diversity of character for the stage. Our dramatists, therefore, mark the distinctions of their characters, by incidents more than by sentiments, and abound more in striking situations than

than interesting dialogue. In the old comedy, the catastrophe is occasioned, in general, by a change in the mind of some principal character, artfully prepared, and cautiously conducted; in the modern, the unfolding of the plot is effected by the overturning of a screen, the opening of a door, or by some other equally dignified machine.

When we compare Massinger with the other dramatic writers of his age, we cannot long hesitate where to place him. More natural in his characters, and more poetical in his diction, than Johnson or Cartwright, more elevated and nervous than Fletcher, the only writers who can be supposed to contest his pre-eminence, Massinger ranks immediately under Shakespeare himself*.

It must be confessed, that in comedy Massinger falls considerably beneath Shakespeare; his wit is less brilliant, and his ridicule less delicate and various; but he affords a specimen of elegant comedy †, of which there is no archetype in his great predecessor. By the rules of a very judicious critic ‡, the characters in this piece appear to be of too elevated a rank for comedy; yet though the plot is somewhat embarrassed by this circumstance, the diversity, spirit, and consistency of the characters render it a most interesting play. In tragedy, Massinger is rather eloquent than pathetic; yet he is often as majestic, and generally more elegant than his master; he is as powerful a ruler of the understanding, as Shakespeare is of the passions: with the disadvantage of succeeding that matchless poet, there is still much original beauty in his works; and the most extensive acquaintance with poetry will hardly diminish the pleasure of a reader and admirer of Massinger.

5. *Observations on the Bills of Mortality for the Towns of Manchester and Salford.* By Thomas Henry, F. R. S. &c.

From the useful facts registered in this paper, a number of important consequences may be deduced. Mr. Henry finds from the average annual number of births and deaths, during the years 1785, 1786, and 1787, is 2139 births, and 1592 deaths. The former number multiplied by 26.5 produces 56683, and the latter by 30.5 produces 48556, and if there be allowed 50 unregistered funerals, and 150 births for the dissenters, and multiply and average these, the result will be 2745, which, added to 52619, will produce 55364, and may be received as nearly the number of inhabitants in Manchester and Salford at the beginning of the present year.

* I omit Milton, because his Samson is an exotic, not captivating to the eyes of Englishmen; and whatever detached beauties Comus may possess, it is incomparably heavy, considered as a dramatic piece.

† The Great Duke of Florence.

‡ See the Essay on the Provinces of the Drama.

6. *Conjectures relative to the Cause of the Increase of Weight acquired by some heated Bodies during cooling.* By Thomas Henry, junior.

Mr. Henry, after attending to the usual sources of inaccuracy in experiments of this kind, namely, the ascent of the rarified part of the column of air near the heated body, which tends to diminish the weight and the less specific gravity of that air, together with the expansion of the neighbouring arm of the balance, which tend to produce a contrary effect, directs his attention to the increase of weight which metals acquire by calcination, which he proves to have a very considerable influence in results of this nature.

7. *Remarks on the floating of Cork-Balls in Water.* By Mr. Banks.

The phenomena of attraction or repulsion, which seem to take place between bodies floating upon the surface of water, have been considered, by many writers, as depending upon the energy of the bodies themselves, and not of the fluid which supports them. Gravesande and many other writers have, however, proved that this effect arises from the gravitation of a portion of the water, which is either elevated or depressed round the floating bodies. Mr. Banks supports this last opinion, and describes the phenomena; but we do not perceive any thing new in either.

8. *Case of a Person becoming Short-sighted in advanced Age.* By Thomas Henry, F. R. S.

It having been mentioned in the Manchester Society, as a means of preventing the necessity of using spectacles in advanced age, that a very small print should be habitually read, by the light of a small candle; Mr. Henry adduces an instance of a gentleman who became short-sighted in advanced age, by this very practice.

9. *An Account of the Progress of Population, Agriculture, Manners, and Government in Pennsylvania.* By Benjamin Rush, M. D. &c.

This paper contains a view of a certain progressive series of facts, which exhibits the human mind in a state very foreign to the views of it which have been taken for many centuries in Europe. The author confines himself to Pennsylvania only, and gives his information as deduced from his own knowledge and observations. P. 184.

The first settler in the woods, is generally a man who has outlived his credit or fortune in the cultivated parts of the state. His time for migrating is in the month of April. His first object is to build a small cabin of rough logs, for himself and family. The floor of this cabin is of earth, the roof of split logs, the light is received through the door, and in some instances, through a small window

window made of greased paper. A coarser building, adjoining this cabin, affords a shelter to a cow and a pair of poor horses. The labour of erecting these buildings is succeeded by killing the trees on a few acres of ground near his cabin. This is done by cutting a circle round the trees, two or three feet from the ground. The ground around these trees is then ploughed, and Indian corn planted in it. The season for planting this grain is about the twentieth of May. It grows generally on new ground, with but little cultivation, and yields in the month of October following, from forty to fifty bushels an acre. After the first of September, it affords a good deal of nourishment to his family in its green or unripe state, in the form of what is called *roasting ears*. His family is fed, during the summer, by a small quantity of grain, which he carries with him, and by fish and game. His cows and horses feed upon wild grass, or the succulent twigs of the woods. For the first year, he endures a great deal of distress from hunger, cold, and a variety of accidental causes; but he seldom complains or sinks under them. As he lives in the neighbourhood of Indians, he soon acquires a strong tincture of their manners. His exertions, while they continue, are violent, but they are succeeded by long intervals of rest. His pleasures consist chiefly in fishing and hunting. He loves spiritous liquors, and he eats, drinks, and sleeps in dirt and rags, in his little cabin.

In his intercourse with the world, he manifests all the arts which characterize the Indians of our country. In this situation he passes two or three years. In proportion as population increases around him, he becomes uneasy and dissatisfied. Formerly, his cattle ranged at large, but now his neighbours call upon him to confine them within fences, to prevent their trespassing upon their fields of grain. Formerly, he fed his family upon wild animals, but these, which fly from the face of man, now cease to afford him an easy subsistence, and he is compelled to raise domestic animals for the support of his family. He cannot bear to surrender up a single natural right for all the benefits of government, and therefore he abandons his little settlement, and seeks a retreat in the woods, where he again submits to all the toils which have been mentioned. There are instances of many men who have broken ground, on bare creation, not less than four different times in this way, in different and more advanced parts of the state. It has been remarked, that the flight of this class of people is always increased by the preaching of the gospel. This will not surprize us when we consider how opposite its precepts are to their licentious manner of living. If our first settler were the owner of the spot of land which he began to cultivate, he sells it at a considerable profit to his successor; but if (as is oftener the case) he were a tenant to some rich land-holder, he abandons it in debt; but the small improvements he leaves behind him generally make it an object of immediate demand to a *second* species of settler.

This species of settler is generally a man of some property. He pays one third or one fourth part in cash for his plantation, which consists of three or four hundred acres, and the rest in sales or instalments, as it is called here; that is, a certain sum yearly.

without interest, till the whole is paid. The first object of this settler is to build an addition to his cabin. This is done with hewn logs, and, as saw-mills generally follow settlements, his floors are made of boards; his roof is made of what are called clab-boards, which are a kind of coarse shingles split out of short logs. This house is divided by two floors, on each of which are two rooms. Under the whole is a cellar walled with stone. The cabin serves as a kitchen to this house. His next object is to clear a little meadow ground, and plant an orchard of two or three hundred apple-trees. His stable is likewise enlarged, and, in the course of a year or two, he builds a large log-barn, the roof of which is commonly thatched with rye-straw. He, moreover, increases the quantity of his arable land, and instead of cultivating Indian corn alone, he raises a quantity of wheat and rye. The latter is cultivated chiefly for the purpose of being distilled into whisky. This species of settler by no means extracts all from the earth which it is able and willing to give. His fields yield but a scanty increase, owing to the ground not being sufficiently ploughed. The hopes of the year are often blasted by his cattle breaking through his half-made fences, and destroying his grain. His horses perform but half the labour that might be expected from them, if they were better fed, and his cattle often die in the spring from the want of provision, and the delay of grass. His house, as well as his farm, bears many marks of a weak tone of mind. His windows are unglazed, or if they have had glass in them, the ruins of it are supplied with old hats, or pillows. This species of settler is seldom a good member of civil or religious society; with a large portion of an hereditary mechanical kind of religion, he neglects to contribute any thing towards building a church, or maintaining a regular administration of the ordinances of the gospel. He is equally indisposed to support civil government. With high ideas of liberty, he refuses to bear his proportion of the debt contracted by its establishment in our country. He delights chiefly in company, sometimes drinks spiritous liquors to excess, will spend a day or two in hunting up a newspaper that contains a political publication, and thus he contracts debts which (if he cannot discharge in a depreciated paper currency) compel him to sell his plantation, generally in the course of a few years, to the *third* and last species of settler.

* This species of settler is commonly a man of property and good character. Sometimes he is the son of a wealthy farmer in one of the interior and ancient counties of the state. His first object is to convert every spot of ground, over which he is able to draw water, into meadow. Where this cannot be done, he selects the most fertile spots on the farm, and devotes them by manure to that purpose. His next object is to build a barn, which he prefers of stone. This building is, in some instances, a hundred feet in front, and forty in depth. It is made very compact so as to shut out the cold in winter, for our farmers find that their horses and cattle, when kept warm, do not require near as much food, as when they are exposed to the cold. He uses economy likewise in the consumption of his wood. Hence, he keeps himself warm in

winter

winter by means of stoves, which save an immense deal of labour to himself and his horses, in cutting and hauling wood in cold and wet weather. His fences are every where repaired, so as to secure his grain from his own and his neighbour's cattle. But further; he increases the number of the articles of his cultivation; and instead of raising corn, wheat, and rye alone, he raises oats, buck-wheat (the phagopyrum of Linnæus) and spelts. Near his house, he allots an acre or two of ground for a garden, in which he raises a large quantity of cabbage and potatoes. His newly cleared fields afford him every year a large increase of turnips. Over the spring which supplies him with water, he builds a milk-house. He likewise adds to the number, and improves the quality of his fruit-trees; his sons work by his side all the year, and his wife and daughters forsake the dairy and the spinning-wheel, to share with him in the toils of harvest. The last object of his industry, is to build a dwelling-house. This business is sometimes effected in the course of his life, but is oftener bequeathed to his son, or the inheritor of his plantation; and hence we have a common saying among our best farmers, "that a son should always begin where his father left off;" that is, he should begin his improvements by building a commodious dwelling-house, suited to the improvements and value of the plantation. This dwelling-house is generally built of stone; it is large and convenient, and filled with useful and substantial furniture. It sometimes adjoins the house of the second settler; but it is frequently placed at a little distance from it. The horses and cattle of this species of settler bear marks in their strength, fat, and fruitfulness, of their being plentifully fed and carefully kept. His table abounds with a variety of the best provisions. His very kitchen flows with milk and honey. Beer, cyder, and wine are the usual drinks of his family. The greatest part of the cloathing of his family is manufactured by his wife and daughters. In proportion as he increases in wealth, he values the protection of laws. Hence he punctually pays his taxes towards the support of government. Schools and churches likewise, as the means of promoting order and happiness in society, derive a due support from him: for benevolence and public spirit, as to these objects, are the natural offspring of affluence and independence. Of this class of settlers are two thirds of the farmers of Pennsylvania. These are the men to whom Pennsylvania owes her ancient fame and consequence.

10. *A Physical Enquiry into the Powers and Operations of Medicines.* By Thomas Percival, M. D. F. R. S. &c.

11. *Observations concerning the vital Principle.* By John Ferriar, M. D.

These two papers contain a considerable mass of observations upon medical and anatomical facts, and will be read with profit and advantage by the medical student. We cannot, however, attempt a summary of their contents.

12. *On the comparative Excellence of the Sciences and Arts.* By Mr. William Roscoe,

Nothing

Nothing is more common than for the cultivator of science to look upon works of imagination, and the products of the fine arts, as trifling, and beneath the consideration of a man of sense. And, on the other hand, an equal contempt is bestowed on the abstract sciences, by those, who cultivating the pursuits of the imagination, are disposed to consider mathematical, mechanical, or chemical science, as dry, uninteresting, and tending to contract, instead of enlarging the mind. The mind of the pedant is ever contracted, whatever may be his pursuit; and the man who cannot cast a glance over the great whole or final purpose to which the pursuits of men ought to be directed, or who, having caught a transient glimpse of such a prospect, still feels himself disposed to give a very high degree of consequence to one particular pursuit, and that pursuit the one to which his own attention has been directed, may depend upon it, that he possesses more or less of this prejudice. It appears necessary, however, for the happiness and comfort of society, that individuals should not in general pursue one particular object, to the depreciation of their character, as men of candour or general benevolence. Mr. Roscoe has endeavoured to elucidate these topics, in a short essay; and though he admits that the obligations of mankind, to such characters as devote themselves to the public good, on subjects which have little or no connection with the promotion of virtue, are great; yet he appears to think, that the general mass of mankind ought to prefer the secret consciousness of a proper discharge of the duties of life, to that popular approbation which attends the successful exertion of ability.

13. *On the Cretins of the Vallais.* By Sir Rich. Clayton, Bart.

In a certain confined district, in the Lower Vallais, about thirty miles in length and eight in breadth, in a sort of vast basin, full of excessive exhalations from the Rhone and the marshes on its sides; where the reflection of the sun from the surrounding mountains forms an atmosphere very singular for its humidity and heat—in this district a numerous set of beings are produced, indeed above the brute species, but in every respect below their own. They are born either of intelligent parents, or by propagation with each other. Of these we cannot do better than give the description in the words of our author, p. 263.

‘Cast in the same mould with the rest of mankind, they have, most certainly, its form; but one looks in vain for

“The human face divine,”

illuminated with sensibility, and lighted up with the ray of understanding. Physiognomists have pretended to discover a trait of the inward character, written on almost every countenance, that bespeaks the passions each individual is warmed with. One proof may at least be added to their system, without adopting it in its fullest

fullest extent; for with the Cretin, the vacuum is distinctly visible. Every mental faculty appears benumbed, and the dreadful torpor is unequivocally expressed. It must be admitted, however, that there are distinctions in the scale of sense, and different gradations amongst them, from total darkness to intellectual twilight, and the dim dawn of understanding. Some have a sort of voice, but the deaf and dumb are very numerous; and there are multitudes who are even mere animal machines, and devoid of almost every sensation. In point of stature, four feet and a half is the standard they reach in general, and it is seldom exceeded more than a few inches. Their countenances are pale, wan, and livid; and exclusive of other external marks of imbecility, they have the mouth very wide, and the tongue and lips uncommonly thick and large. Nature seems also to have exhausted with them all her efforts at a very early hour, and old age treads upon the heels of infancy. They die, regularly, young, and there are not any instances of their arriving at the advanced period of human life. The propagation of the species is the only appetite numbers of them are ever roused by, and it rages with more than common violence. The same lasciviousness is supposed to apply to the monkey and baboon. With some, possibly, the observation may create a smile, but the naturalist will pause on the analogy, whilst it will not escape the moralist, that as man becomes the slave of his own unruly passions, he descends into a proximity to the brute creation. In this description of the Cretin, it ought to be observed, those only in the fullest sense of the word are to be included. In the different gradations, nature has been uniformly regular. Where she has least varied from herself, the Cretin most resembles mankind in a state of perfection, both in countenance and figure, reaches nearer its general stature, and there is less difference in their respective periods of existence. The repeated view of such multitudes of unfortunate beings is, to the last degree, piteous and affecting. There is, notwithstanding, some consolation in reflecting, that they are not themselves sensible of their misfortune, and that every care is taken of them, which their situation will admit of.

‘ In some places they are looked on as the idiots of Turkey: in others they are considered as predestinated beings, the devoted victims of the wrath of Providence, and punished by its visitation for the sins of the rest of the family. Either idea insures them kindness and attention. In the first instance, they are objects of religious veneration; in the second, they are recompensed out of gratitude, on account of their supposed sufferings for the frailties of their parents and their friends.

‘ To consider such groups of them as accidental, is impossible. There have been generations after generations of them, and though their numbers vary in different families, some are almost entirely composed of them. Nature must here therefore act on certain principles, and be governed by fixed laws, though the former are not yet known, and the latter have not been discovered. What proves, to a degree almost of mathematical certitude, that there is some physical reason for the dreadful singularity, is the single

single circumstance, that a family coming from a distance to reside within the district, has, in a few years, occasion to lament, on its increase, that idiocy it was before a stranger to. The same argument has equal force against its being transmitted from inter-marriages with families whose ancestors had unfortunately a share in the calamity. The reverse of the proposition, I have been lately informed from very respectable authority, holds equally true; and that Cretin colonies removing from the district, and marrying only amongst themselves, after one generation, or at most two, lose the disgusting distinction they carried with them.'

14. *A Description of the Eye of the Seal.* By Mr. Hey, of Leeds.

Mr. Hey has given an accurate anatomical description of this organ. The optic nerve was not in the axis of the eye, as various authors have asserted, but was placed on one side, as it is in other animals. The most singular circumstance, was the extreme smallness of the pupil, which was no larger than the puncture of a middle sized pin, and its figure, which was equilateral.

15. *Observations on the Knowledge of the Ancients, respecting Electricity.* By William Falconer, M. D. F. R. S.

A variety of facts, relative to natural electricity, were known to the ancients; the fires appearing on the points of spears; the sacred lights, distinguished by the names of Castor and Pollux; the electric shock, as given by the torpedo, and which, in certain instances, was medically applied by the ancients: these and other facts, are enumerated and discussed by our author. But the most singular opinion is, that Numa Pompilius was acquainted with the method of drawing down the lightning from heaven, by means of an electrical conductor; and that Tullus Hostilius was destroyed by lightning, which set fire to his palace, while he was attempting to repeat these sacred ceremonies, in an injudicious or less scientific manner.

16. *Essay on some supposed Druidical Remains near Hallifax, in Yorkshire.* By Mr. Thomas Barrett.

These remains are certain rocks or stones placed upon the high hill called Pots and Pans, near Saddleworth, in the county of York. Mr. Barrett has given a drawing of these, with various elucidations of their probable uses in the religious ceremonies of the Druids.

17. *Account of an ancient Monument in Hulne Abbey, Northumberland.* By John Ferriar, M. D.

This account is illustrated by a plate, without which any thing we might extract upon the subject, would be unintelligible.

18. *On the Nature and Utility of Eloquence.* By Richard Sharp, F. S. A.

The remarks contained in this essay are acute and intelligent,

gent, and amount on the whole to this, that he is the most eloquent of men, who adapts his words to his subject, and to his audience, without endeavouring at foreign ornament. Mr. Sharp concludes his paper, perhaps too oratorically, as follows. P. 328.

Who are these severe judges that are ever insisting upon the exclusive excellence of the mechanical, commercial, or even philosophical employments? as if those employments were good for any thing, considered separately from the end which they aim at in common with works of imagination, THE PROMOTION OF HAPPINESS. Are there any of them that tend more immediately to this great purpose? Which of them has more power to refine the manners, to soften the temper, to diffuse tranquility and cheerfulness; to correct and enlarge the mind? Away then with such short-sighted objections, and let those that chuse it prefer the man who makes a blade of grass grow where it grew not before, to the poet and the moralist, who water the sickly seeds of virtue, and cause a rich harvest of good deeds to spring up, from the barren and unfriendly soil of a depraved or neglected heart.

Not far beneath the hero's feet,
Nor from the legislator's seat,
Stands far remote the bard:
Though not with public terrors crown'd,
Yet wider shall his rule be found;
More lasting his award.
Lycurgus fashion'd Sparta's fame,
And Pompey to the Roman name,
Gave universal sway:
Where are they?—Homer's reverend page
Holds empire to the thirtieth age,
And tongues and climes obey.

AKENSIDE on the Use of Poetry.

19. *Some Properties of geometrical Series, explained in the Solution of a Problem, which hath been thought indetermined.* By John Rotheram, M. D.

The problem is this, *Given the Sum (a), and the sum of the squares (b), of any geometrical series, to determine the series, and the general rule deduced by Dr. Rotheram is; Divide the sum of the squares by the sum of the series. Add the quotient to, and subtract it from the sum of the series. Divide the greater of these two numbers by the less; the quotient of this second division shall be the common ratio, and the remainder twice the first termed.*

20. *On Halos.* By the Reverend James Wood, A. M. Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

Various hypotheses have been made use of by Des Cartes, Newton and Huygens, to account for the appearance of halos, or coloured circles round the sun and moon. Mr. Wood relates some observations of these phenomena, and has applied the

the received principles of optics to Dr. Halley's supposition, that vapour consists of hollow spherules of water, filled with an elastic fluid. We cannot follow him in his deductions for want of the figures. They agree pretty nearly with the diameters of the halo's mentioned by Newton in his optics. The author does not, however, consider his theory as free from objections; but admits, that it requires to be confirmed or rejected in consequence of future observations. And he justly observes, that the theory which may be confirmed by such observations, will tend to throw great light upon the disputed doctrine of the ascent of vapours.

21. *Considerations relative to the Nature of Wool, Silk, and Cotton, as Objects of the Art of Dying; on the various Preparations, and Mordants, requisite for these different Substances; and on the Nature and Properties of colouring Matter. Together with some Observations on the Theory of Dying in general, and particularly the Turkey Red.* By Thomas Henry, F. R. S. &c.

The art of dying has engaged the attention of several philosophical chemists, but is still very far from being theoretically understood. The difficulties of acquiring knowledge, by inspecting the processes in dye-houses, many of which are kept secret, and all of them concealed from the man of science, in a greater or less degree, by the prejudices of artists, who consider him as an innovating intruder, have greatly impeded the progress of this department of chemistry. And were these difficulties removed, the number of experiments required to be made, to determine what happens in the performance of ill-contrived recipes, as well as to ascertain the general principles upon which improvement might be founded, is so great, that a large field would even then present itself to be cleared by the industry and skill of the man of science. Mr. Henry, by his situation, appears to have possessed opportunities of acquiring information, and his skill to turn that information to advantage, is well known. Without attempting, therefore, to follow him through this treatise, we shall content ourselves with observing, that it contains a considerable mass of information relative to facts, and many indications which the enquirer into this branch of science, will find of advantage, as leading to future discoveries.

22. *Observations respecting the History of Physiognomy.* By Thomas Cooper, Esq.

This is a very learned dissertation upon a subject, which having been formerly cultivated in conjunction with the visionary sciences, has, without much justice, shared a portion of the contempt to which those sciences are entitled. Mr. Cooper commencing his enquiries as far back as the time of Socrates, brings

brings them down to our contemporary Lavater. Too little has been done towards systematising this science, which, though in practice admitted by every one, is generally derided. We cannot therefore make any attempt, either at selection or abridgement, though we have received much pleasure and entertainment from the perusal of this paper, and the valuable notes which accompany it.

23. *Description of a Glory.* By John Haygarth, M. B.
F. R. S. &c.

This phenomenon, of which a drawing is exhibited, was seen by Mr. Haygarth at sun set, surrounding the shadow of his head, upon a dense white cloud lying upon the earth. The head of this shadow was surrounded at some distance, by a circle of various colours, whose centre appeared to be near the situation of the eye, and whose circumference extended to the shoulders. The circle was complete, except what was intercepted by the shadow. It exhibited the most vivid colours, the red being outermost; and as far as could be recollected, all the colours appeared in the same order and proportion that the rainbow presents to our view. At the considerable distance to the right and left, were seen the arches of a white shining bow, broader than a rainbow, but not completely joined into a semi-circle above, on account of the shallowness of the cloud. When Mr. Haygarth returned into his chaise, which he had left at some distance behind him, a bright radiance appeared close to its shadow, but no separate coloured circle was formed.

24. *Experiments on the Fusion of Platina.* By Mr. Thomas Willis, Chemist, at the Hermitage, London.

In these experiments, which are 18 in number, crude platina was, for the most part, used. Mr. Willis did not succeed in rendering it malleable. In the 13th experiment, a precipitation of platina, by sal ammoniac, from its solution in marine acid, was agitated with dry volatile alkali, and attempted to be melted upon a bed of charcoal, but could only be obtained in small globules, after the application of an intense heat for two hours. These globules were powdered and mixed with a small quantity of borax of vegetable alkali and of charcoal. After two hours heat, a complete fusion was obtained. There was one large button weighing one hundred and sixty grains, of a specific gravity of 23.4, and close grained, but not malleable.

25. *Propositions respecting the Foundation of Civil Government.*
By Thomas Cooper, Esq.

This treatise is the most strictly argumentative and perspicuous of any we have ever perused, and comprehends in a very concise

concise manner, those fundamental principles which are applicable to every department of the social compact or government. From the very accurate method pursued by this author, he has not been led into any of those deceptions so frequent in writers upon government; and we readily gave our assent, or to speak more to the purpose, we could not withhold it from any of his positive propositions. We feel ourselves disposed, however, to dissent from him in his conjecture, that no injustice is done, by debarring those from voting in the choice of national representatives, who on account of their poverty, are exempted from the payment of all taxes; and his reasons appear to us very nearly, if not totally void of foundation. For, in the first place, there is no such person in a state, as an individual who pays no taxes, or who is not immediately interested in almost every tax which can be proposed. In the second place, the association of men for mutual protection, is not only intended to defend what is usually understood by the word property, but likewise for the defence of life, liberty, and a variety of comforts which the man of no property has a right to enjoy, and which are infinitely more valuable than any property can possibly be; and thirdly, to avoid enumerating the numberless arguments which crowd on the mind in defence of the man of no property, we will observe, that neither Mr. Cooper, nor any other writer we have seen, Blackstone excepted, appear to have perfectly adequate notions of the compact under which individuals are suffered to retain much more property than they could either acquire or retain, if they had not the force of a governing system at their back, which at least permits them to hold, perhaps unjustly, that accumulation which the government can devise no peaceable means of distributing. But we forbear proceeding in this extensive subject, from a conviction, that Mr. Cooper's own second reflections, will point out at least as much as it is possible we might be able to urge in this place. And it would give us great pleasure, to see this department of general politics, treated by him in the same accurate and perspicuous manner, as the first principles of government are handled in the treatise before us.

26. *Observations on the Art of Painting among the Ancients.* By Thomas Cooper, Esq.

The author has undertaken to enquire, whether the ancients had at any time more than four colours, and at what period they were in use; whether they were deficient in design, expression, colouring, composition, invention, coutume or perspective; what we know of them as portrait, landscape, comic and satirical painters; what were the various modes of painting among the ancients, with respect to the mechanical parts of the art, and what miscellaneous observations appear worth noting. And this task he has performed in a masterly manner.

27. *Some Account of a Mine in which the Aerated Barytes is found.*
By Mr. James Watt, Jun.

The aerated barytes is found in a state of considerable purity, and free from every vestige of lead or arsenic, at Anglezark lead mine near Chorley, in Lancashire. Mr. Watt describes it as follows, p. 607.

‘ The aerated barytes is in general of a pale greyish white colour, but sometimes it inclines to the milk white, and at others has a slight yellowish tinge, which is a token of the presence of iron.

‘ It is found in solid masses, sometimes filling the whole of the vein, at others interspersed amongst the vitriolated barytes; the masses are generally rounded on the outside, and affect something of a globular form. It is seldom found externally crystallized: I have however observed four varieties of it in that state. The one in which a number of small crystals radiated in the form of a star from a centre; these crystals were about half an inch in length, very thin, and appeared to be hexagonal columns rounded to a point. The other varieties were the six-sided column, pointed with a pyramid of the same number of faces; also the double six-sided, and the double four-sided pyramid.

‘ It has a strong gloss or lustre upon the recent fracture.

‘ Its fracture, in one direction, is striated or radiated, composed of small convergent fasciculi; when broken transversely it assumes a kind of glassy or chonchoidal fracture, like quartz. When externally crystallized, its fracture does not appear radiated in any sense.

‘ It splits into irregular, rather longish fragments.

‘ The large masses are frequently composed of globular concentric pieces, several of them lying one on the outside of another, and having a roundish one in the centre, to which the radii or fasciculi of the rest are pointed.

‘ It is semi-transparent, or diaphanous; just soft enough to admit of being scraped by a knife. Is brittle, and heavy, but in a somewhat less degree than the vitriolated barytes. Its specific gravity has been found to be from 4.300. to 4.338.’

28. The appendix to this volume contains some valuable notes by Dr. Percival, to his paper *On the Principles of Taxation*. They are ten in number, indicated by the letters of the alphabet. (A) *Taxation is not the mere Creature of Civil Society*. This position is ably supported by the doctor against a learned friend, who regards property as so much the creature of civil society, that the supreme magistrate is authorized to apply the whole of the property of every individual to the use of the whole society. It seems, indeed, to be very clear, as the doctor states, that the idea of protection, equivalent to the sacrifices made to government, is directly contrary to that of the government possessing the power of appropriating the whole property of any individual; because, it is evident, that the individual would be a greater gainer by compounding with a rob-

ber or enemy, than in being protected on such terms. On the other hand, we have already had occasion to hint, that the sacred nature of property is too strenuously insisted on by most writers. When we consider, that in the laws of the descent of property under settlement, there are at least one hundred of the immediate offspring of the common ancestor, made beggars, in order that four men may possess the family estate in succession; that all descents of property produce more or less of this evil, with regard to the community, which would be severely felt, if personal extravagance did not alleviate its consequences; that most of the considerable accumulations of property in society, arise from the vices of individuals, by virtue of which one man is empowered to exact a most immoderate share of the produce of the labor of such individuals, as from necessity, imprudence, or vice, are compelled to become his slaves, under the name of workmen: if we consider these, and many other circumstances relating to the nature of bargains, either direct or implied, and to the original rights of mankind, there will at least be reason to suspect, that cases might be pointed out, in which government might, and ought to interfere, in matters of property, especially when that property far exceeded every limit, which the obvious notions of comfort, ease, or independence, might point out. These are speculations which deserve to be investigated, though their practical application may, perhaps, appertain to a society of men, more perfect than any which has yet existed. The scheme of this practical application is not however chimerical. The art of printing, by which the wisdom of the few has been speedily diffused among the many, has not been invented above three centuries and a half, and the moral perfection and happiness of them, has been increasing in more than a simply progressive ratio ever since. Tyranny every where begins to tremble. The general rights of men are understood and freely treated of. The tyranny of the richest against the rich will probably be soon annihilated; and why may we not indulge the hope, that a period will arrive, in which the tyranny of the rich over the poor will also cease? It will cease; but not until the progress of virtue has greatly changed the disposition of the one to impose, and of the other to sell the produce of his labor for an immediate bare subsistence.

In the mean time can we insist, that government has no power to interfere in this case, if it be true that civil society is an association to defend the weak against the strong? But here again we meet the same obstacle as before. The active part of every government is made up of the very oppressors, and these will never be successfully opposed, until their antagonists acquire virtue, prudence, intelligence;—and then society will indeed be perfect.

(B.) This

(B.) This note relates to the increasing influence of the crown. Though the influence of the crown, previous to the revolution, had in several reigns been exorbitant, and may seem at present to be much diminished, yet it is urged, that the influence arising from the public funds, the riot act, and the immensity of patronage at home and in the east, has nearly, if not more than compensated for any apparent difference. It appears, however, from the very circumstances of the discussions on the influence of the crown, either in books or in the House of Commons, that the influence and power of the crown, neither can, nor dare attempt, to check that liberal, well informed, and manly spirit, which characterizes the present age. And this seems to be an infinite preponderant in the scale of power, when we compare the kings or tyrants of dark ages, to the limited first magistrate of modern times. The very implement of tyranny, a standing army, has in our times proved too well informed, to be applied to the purpose of enslaving their fellow citizens in a neighbouring kingdom; and the progress of knowledge, and free discussion, is an immensely greater check to the undue influence and power of the crown, than any formal charter or bill of rights could be without it.

(C. D.) Doctrine of passive-obedience and non-resistance merely speculative. We have great pleasure in reflecting, that these doctrines are not only exploded, but obsolete. The generation, which was partly infected with the sophisms urged in their defence, has passed away; and we trust, that there are not two opinions at present respecting them, among men who are capable of thinking for themselves.

(E.) Advantages of the British government. A few of the many advantages derived from our limited form of government, are displayed in this note.

(F.) Taxes on the necessities of life. Evils are supposed to arise in great towns, from high wages and cheapness of provisions. The doctor does not offer any thing decided, or general, on this subject. It appears, indeed, that the evils arise from the prevalence of vicious habits, and not from the magnitude of the reward appropriated to the actual workman. A labouring man will find twenty or twenty-five shillings no embarrassing sum in any part of the kingdom, if he does justice to his wife and children; but if this man work three days in the week at such wages, and employ the other three days in spending his earnings upon the materials of inebriation, it is evident that he does not possess moral principle enough to be benefited by such a payment. This man and his family would, in fact, be benefitted, if his wages were reduced to one half; because his receipts would amount to the same sum, and he would continue sober and industrious for six days, instead of three. We do not think, however, that this is the proper remedy.

medy. Those who have the management of public affairs ought to consider, whether it would not be better to attempt the remedy, by increasing the general stock of moral principle, instead of distressing the industrious part of the community, by a remedy in itself unjust, and applicable only to the vicious.

(G.) Statutes of Excise. The great impolicy of the excise system, is shown in the following paragraph, p. 645.

* A very judicious writer, on the subject of taxes *, remarks, "that though vexation is not, strictly speaking, expence, it is certainly equivalent to the expence, at which every man would be willing to redeem himself from it." This important consideration pleads strongly for a revival of the excise laws; by which six millions and a half, a sum equal to two fifths of the whole revenue of the state, are raised chiefly from the arts and industry of the people. It is said, that the number of informations, tried in one year, amounted nearly to five thousand; but the actual forfeitures only to seven thousand pounds. A fuller proof can hardly be adduced that frivolous and vexatious suits are often instituted, even under the present just and lenient government. What oppression, therefore, may be dreaded from a farther extension of an uninterrupted system of excise, if power and long usage shall hereafter silence the public voice against it!

(H.) Oaths. The frequency of oaths greatly tend to corrupt the moral opinions and practices of mankind. This is remarkably exemplified by a quotation from Lord Kaimes, who states, that the frequent violation of custom-house oaths, has done away the criminality of this practice, and put them upon a level with the expression of, *Sir, I am your humble servant*. Here we see a vitiation of principles in the judge himself.

ART. IV. *Remarks on the leading Proofs offered in favour of the Franklinian System of Electricity; with Experiments to shew the Direction of the electric Effluvia visibly passing from what has been termed, negatively Electrified Bodies.* By the Rev. John Lyon, of Dover. 8vo. 47 pages. Price 1s. Dodsley. 1791.

THIS short treatise is divided into three chapters. The two first are taken up by quotations from various Franklinian electricians, which exhibit enough of inconsistency and contradiction, and the confusion is rendered still greater by a want of method and perspicuity in our author. Indeed, it seems to be a wrong method of controverting any doctrine to oppose its defenders to each other, and endeavour to amass together those mistakes or inaccuracies to which the common herd of writers are subject. The fair way † is, for the opponent himself to

* Smith on the Wealth of Nations, Book v. Chap. 11. Part II.

† A striking instance of this candid and impartial method of proceeding is given in the Statement of the Theory of Two Fluids, by

to exhibit the theory he means to combat in the most favourable light it can, with justice, bear, and then state the absurdities which naturally arise from the first principles so candidly laid down. The doctrine of Newton ought not to be examined by collecting the various popular opinions and inadvertant elucidations of Clarke, Jurin, Pemberton, or Desaguliers; neither ought the simple and perspicuous theory of Franklin to be discussed by quotations from his numerous followers.

We will readily admit that the hypothesis of Franklin, and the established theory of gravitation, are things so different as scarcely to be mentioned together; and we apprehend that there are few electricians, at present, so bigotted as not to see that the phenomena are, at least, as well explained, upon the hypothesis of two fluids, either in the methods of Symmer or De Luc. We cannot, however, approve Mr. Lyon's manner, who, because he is himself well convinced that glass is permeable to electricity, appears to think that the advocates for the theory of Franklin have entered into a kind of confederacy to defend it at the expence of common sense, candor, and even integrity; for he describes them as making every sort of shift to avoid, not conviction, but confutation.

We shall not, therefore, attempt the task of analysing the controversial part of his pamphlet, as we do not conceive it to be an act either of necessity or duty in us to endeavour to give method and clearness to the works of authors, by new arranging such materials as come before us in a confused state. Leaving this part, therefore, to its merits with the public, we shall confine our attention to the experiments by which Mr. Lyon has undertaken to shew the direction of the electric effluvia in a visible manner.

In the first place, he has connected the spiral tube, as it is called, with the conductor communicating with the cushion. The external end of the tube terminating in a wire and small ball, he found that the ball and wire were luminous when the cylinder was turned (and the conductor usually called positive, was uninsulated) at the same time that electricity was seen at the parts where the tinfoil was broken or interrupted on the surface of the glass tube. The *direction* of the electricity was

by the same Dr. Priestley, who is accused by Mr. Lyon of *unfairly and unphilosophically recurring to mere hypothesis to evade the force of a direct fact, tending to subvert a specious theory for which he has a fond predilection*. Ought not Mr. Lyon to have recollected that, unfortunately, we have no direct facts of this nature? that the very fact he alludes to, is as neatly solved by one hypothesis as by another, of those we possess, his own not excepted? and more especially, that the purposes of science will be much better promoted by the cool unimpassioned way of proceeding of Priestley, than by the decisive and irritating language of controversy, as usually managed, and of which Mr. Lyon exhibits too large a share.

not, indeed, *visible*; but Mr. Lyon uses arguments to shew that it passed *out of the ball*. For our part, as we *see nothing in the experiment* which shews a direction in one way rather than the other, so likewise we see no part of the arguments which might not, by a slight conversion of a few terms, be applied to either opinion.

The other experiments of Mr. Lyon shew, very evidently, that the brush, a cone of light, and the globe or tip, which were considered as characteristic of the positive and negative electricities, depend on circumstances in the power of the operator. It was not, indeed, pretended by Franklin, that these phenomena indicated any direction of the fluid, but were merely distinctive criterions of the electricities of the rubber and of the conductor called positive. But it is not an object of dispute whether these appearances are all capable of proving the existence or direction of a single electric fluid; for certainly they are not at all adapted to any such purpose. Much has been done and much has been said about electricity, and it still remains a wonderful and almost unexplored subject. If those who undertake to advance our knowledge respecting it, should have the sagacity and good fortune to make decisive experiments, little of controversy will be required. Words are plentiful, but facts are scarce. v.

ART. v. *A Treatise on Theatres*. 4to. 94 p. and 13 plates. pr. 10s. 6d. in boards. Taylor, 1790.

THIS work was published in consequence of the destruction of the Italian opera house in the Hay-market, and besides several original designs, contains many judicious observations on most of the theatres of Europe.

COUNT ALGAROTTI is the first of the moderns who has written on this subject; his essay appeared in 1762; since that period Messrs. Noverre, Patte, and a great number of others, have treated on theatrical architecture.

In Chap. 1, optics and phonics are considered as relative to theatres. The author informs us, that if we view a person at a greater height than an angle of 45 degrees, the features appear distorted, and the expressions grimace; it is with great difficulty, according to him, that we can comprehend the expression of the actor's countenance, at the distance of 75 feet.

Chap. 2, contains a variety of experiments on the voice. Woollen clothes are found to absorb sound; paint, a croud of people, &c. are also prejudicial to it. Water, on the contrary, is extremely favourable: when a canal was dug under the pit floor of the theatre of Argentino at Rome, a surprising difference was observed, and the voice has since been heard where it was before scarcely distinguishable. 'Stone is sonorous, but occasions a harsh, disagreeable tone, unfavourable to music. Brick, in respect to sound, has nearly the same properties,

ties as stone. Wood is sonorous and vibrative ; of all materials, it produces a tone the most agreeable and melodious, and is the fittest for musical instruments. It is, therefore, the best material for lining a theatre ; for not absorbing so much as some, and not conducting so much as others, this medium renders it peculiarly suitable to rooms for musical purposes ; the little resonance it occasions being rather agreeable than injurious.' From several experiments our author concludes, 1. that sound expands equally every way. 2. That to alter the form of its expansion, the intervention of a body is necessary. 3. That all bodies attract sound. 4. That sound is absorbed, and conducted by a body more or less, according to the nature of the material. 5. That in proportion to the conducting power of the material, will be the resonance it occasions, and that nothing can be depended on in a theatre, but *the direct force of the voice*.

Chap. 3. *Of the form most advantageous to the voice and sight.* The square is here preferred to the oval ; and three-fourths of the diameter, or the length from the stage to the front of the opposite boxes, is determined to be the proper height of the cieling.

Chap. 4. *Of finishing a theatre.* An upper gallery in an opera-house is objected to, and the custom of lining the boxes with paper, and adorning them with festoons of silk and damask, is thought to be detrimental to all theatres.

Chap. 5. *Of the necessary appendages to a theatre ; the stage, and adjoining parts.*

Chap. 6. *An examination of the principal theatres.* In this we are told, that the Roman theatre was built in the form of a semicircle, and divided into three or more separate parts ; the two first for the populace, and the third for the women. The Grecian theatre differed but little from the Roman, except in the *pulpitum*, or stage. The olympic theatre, at Vicenza, begun by Andrea Palladio, May 23, 1580, is a semi-oval, placed lengthways towards the stage. The great diameter is 113 feet, the radius, or half diameter, i. e. from the stage front to the outer wall, 49 feet. The theatre of San Carlo, at Naples, is the largest now in use, being 70 feet long from the stage opening, to the front of the opposite boxes ; 70 feet wide between the same ; and 70 feet from the pit to the cieling. Its form is a semicircle, the sides of which are prolonged, narrowing towards the stage in form of a horse-shoe.

The theatre of Argentina, at Rome, is somewhat like that of Naples, but much smaller. The theatre at Bologna, is admirably adapted for seeing the representation ; that of Milan is magnificent, but according to our author it is considerably too large. The form is that of an egg, cut off at the small end ; it is 71 feet 6 inches in length, from the stage door to the opposite boxes, and 17 more to the scene ; 66 feet wide in the broadest part between the boxes, and 69 feet high from the pit-floor to the cieling. The theatre of Turin is attached to

the king of Sardinia's palace, and has the stage-floor nearly level with his apartments. The form is that of an oval, cut off at one end, and spread at the stage opening; the stage advances in a circular line, the opening is 42 feet 6 inches wide, and 112 feet long, besides a court behind, by which they occasionally lengthen the scenery. All persons acquainted with the theatre at Bourdeaux, are, we are told, unanimous in its favour; the voice of the actor spreads more equally in it than in any other. The *Theatre de la Nation*, at Paris, is held in great estimation for the equal force with which the voice reaches every part of it. The late opera house in London was small and inconvenient; the galleries in particular, were inadequate to the purposes for which they were intended.

Chap. 7 and 8, contain designs for a theatre and an opera house, but of these we shall not attempt a description, as it is impossible to do justice to our author without referring to the copperplate engravings annexed to this work. o.

ART. VI. *An Answer to Mr. George Dixon, late Commander of the Queen Charlotte, in the service of Messrs. Etches and Company.* By John Meares, Esq. 4to. 32 p. pr. 2s. Walter, 1791.

THIS retorting answer is written in a more gentleman-like style than Mr. Dixon's, though with angry warmth and a parade of contempt; and Mr. M. with some ingenuity, parries off the blows which have been levelled at some passages in his book. We do not think it would be interesting to our readers to enter minutely into the merits of the dispute.

ART. VII. *Further Remarks on the Voyages of John Meares, Esq; in which several important Facts, misrepresented in the said Voyages, relative to Geography and Commerce, are fully substantiated. To which is added, a Letter from Captain Duncan; containing a decisive Refutation of several unfounded Assertions of Mr. Meares, and a final Reply to his Answer.* By George Dickson. 4to. p. 80. pr. 3s. 6d. Stockdale. 1791.

We have, in our account of Mr. Meares's voyages, observed, that they would probably afford more amusement to general readers than information to professional people; and Mr. Dixon's sensible, though severe animadversions, confirm us in the opinion which the perusal of the work, without a very strict examination, must naturally give rise to, in a rational unprejudiced mind. Mr. Dixon has alluded to some of the inconsistencies, which we pointed out in our review, and we recommend his answers to those readers, who are so far interested as to wish to have an accurate, rather than a florid account of a trading voyage; and professional men will find it of

of great consequence to trace the mistakes which might lead them into fatal errors.

There is such an appearance of honesty in Mr. Dixon's plain statement of facts, that the mere internal evidence of their truth, we should be inclined to think, would overturn many of Mr. Meares's plausible assertions; but of this part of the subject we are neither able nor willing to form a decided judgment.

W.

ART. VIII. *A Treatise on practical Astronomy*. By the Rev. S. Vince, A. M. F. R. S. 4to. 204 p. pr. 15s. sewed. Cadell, 1790.

THIS treatise, the author informs us, contains the substance of a course of lectures on practical astronomy, read in the University of Cambridge, and which he at first intended to have published as a syllabus for the use of his auditors; but, considering that a regular treatise on the subject was much wanted, he was induced to extend his plan, and give a full description of every instrument, by a reference to an accurate figure, that the subject might be intelligible to those readers who may not have an opportunity of consulting the instruments. To Dr. Maskelyne, the astronomer royal, he confesses his obligations for communicating such information as was necessary towards completing the work; and, to Mr. Ramsden, for favouring him with the construction of his new instruments, and his latest improvements of others.

This is, in substance, the whole of the author's prefatory account; but in order that our readers may be enabled to form a more adequate judgment of the work, than can be obtained from so concise a statement of particulars, we shall present them with a short analysis of every article, accompanied with such observations and remarks as may tend to convey a proper idea of the performance, and the manner in which it is executed. These, however, must necessarily be confined to such parts of the subject as can be understood without a reference to the plates, which can be consulted to advantage only by those who are in possession of the book itself.

Chap. 1. contains an account of the *vernier* (commonly, though improperly, called the *nonius*), which has its name from *Pierre Vernier*, its inventor, and not from *Petrus Nonius*, to whom some have ascribed it.

This is a graduated index, moveable about the arc of a quadrant, and several other astronomical and philosophical instruments, in order to carry on the subdivisions to a greater number and a greater degree of accuracy than could be done by any other method. The principle upon which it is founded is, that if two equal arcs to the same radius, or two equal straight lines be each divided

divided into equal parts, so that the number of parts in the one may exceed the number in the other by unity, the difference of these equal parts will be a fraction, the numerator of which is the length of the equal arcs, or straight lines, and its denominator the product of the number of parts into which each is divided. This principle Mr. V. explains algebraically, in the usual way, and illustrates it by several numerical examples, which serve to shew how it may be applied to instruments to answer the purpose abovementioned. But we must observe, that his account of this excellent invention is neither so full nor satisfactory as could be wished, especially for beginners, who, if they are properly inquisitive and desirous of obtaining a perfect knowledge of the instrument, will require much more information than is here to be met with. Mr. Robertson's description of the *Vernier*, in his Elements of Navigation, though defective in some respects, is more clear and scientific than the one before us.

Chap. II. treats on Hadley's quadrant, which, as Mr. V. shews in a note at the bottom of the page, and as it is now generally agreed, was properly the invention of Sir Isaac Newton; though Hadley seems not to have been acquainted with this prior discovery, and, therefore, his fame cannot suffer on that account. This admirable instrument is now become of such general use, not only in astronomy and navigation, but in many other branches of science, that its theory, construction, and management, require to be most accurately and clearly explained. In doing this, we think the author has succeeded much better than in the last article. He has entered but little into things of a speculative nature, and has, in general, detailed his practical observations at sufficient length, and with such a degree of perspicuity, as will enable the attentive reader to perceive many of the excellencies and advantages of the instrument he describes. A complete knowledge of it can only be obtained by a frequent use of the instrument, and a constant recurrence, in all cases of difficulty, to the theory upon which it is founded; the latter of which is not so fully explained by Mr. V. as many other parts of the subject which are of less moment.

Chap. III. contains an account of the wires in a telescope. These are parallel or cross wires placed in the focus of the object-glass, serving as so many fixed marks in the field of view to which any celestial objects may be brought, in order to determine their right ascensions, &c. In this article the author is sufficiently explicit, and many of his observations will be found useful to the practical astronomer who wishes to inform himself in the theory upon which this method of observation is founded. But any abridgement of it would be unintelligible to the generality of our readers, without the assistance of the plates.

Chap.

Chap. iv. is on the description and use of the transit telescope. This is a telescope moveable about an horizontal axis, and so adjusted as to make its line of collimation describe a great circle, passing through the pole and zenith, or the meridian of the place. Its use is, to take the right ascensions of the heavenly bodies, and to correct the going of the clock; having, for this purpose, a system of wires placed in the principal focus of the object-glass. A proper idea of it can only be obtained from a sight of the instrument, or a reference to the plate; we have, therefore, only to observe, that Mr. Vince's account of this instrument, and its various improvements, is clear and judicious, though he has added little or nothing to what was before known on the subject.

Chap. v. treats on the astronomical quadrant. This is an instrument for taking the altitudes of the heavenly bodies above the horizon, and by which, having previously settled the latitude of the place, we can find their declinations, which with their right ascensions, found by the transit telescope, determine their place in the heavens. It is, sometimes, fixed up with its plane in the meridian against a firm stone pillar or wall, with a motion in its own plane to adjust it by, in which case it is called a *mural quadrant*; and, sometimes, fixed to a vertical axis, and moveable round it into any azimuth, by which altitudes may be taken off the meridian. That which is here described was made by Mr. Ramsden, for the observatory at Christ College, Cambridge. Mr. Vince's account of it is full and satisfactory, as is also that of the *equal altitude instrument*, which is treated of in the same chapter.

Chap. vi. treats on the micrometer, an instrument which was, at first, adopted to measure the angular distance of such objects as might appear in the field of view of a telescope at the same time, or to measure the apparent diameters of the heavenly bodies; but its use has since been extended to measure the distance of bodies more remote. As there have been various contrivances for this purpose, Mr. V. describes them each separately, beginning with that which was invented by Mr. Huygens, and concluding with the lamp micrometer of Mr. Herschel.

This article contains little information but what may be found in other books, already in the hands of the publick, and is, in many instances, too concise to answer the expectations of the learner, to whom it must chiefly have been designed to be useful, as most persons, who have been accustomed to make astronomical observations, are well acquainted with these instruments, and the various improvements they have undergone.

CH AP. VII. contains an account of the equatorial and zenith sectors. These are instruments which have been invented for taking the difference of right ascensions and declinations

clinations of such stars as, on account of their great difference of declinations, will not pass through the field of view of a fixed telescope. The first instrument of this kind was made by Mr. Graham, and is now in the observatory at Greenwich, with the description and use of which Mr. V. begins this article, and then proceeds to give an account of that made by Mr. Sisson, for the purpose of admitting a larger telescope than the former. He next gives a description of the zenith sector, first made by Dr. Hook, for the purpose of determining the annual parallax of the fixed stars, and of the greatly improved one which was afterwards made by Mr. Graham. With this latter instrument Dr. Bradley made his two admirable discoveries, the *aberration of light in the fixed stars*, and the *nutation of the earth's axis*. The instrument is now in the observatory at Greenwich; and, on account of its great excellence, and the esteem in which it has been held by some of the first astronomers in Europe, it should seem to have merited a more ample description, both of its construction and use, than Mr. V. has thought proper to bestow on it; his account of it being far too confined to afford much satisfaction to the curious reader.

Chap. VIII. treats on the equatorial instrument; the first of which was made by Mr. Short, and is described in the Philosophical Transactions, for the year 1749. Since that time various improvements have been made in its adjustments and other matters, which have rendered it much more accurate; but as the general principle is nearly the same in them all, Mr. V. gives only a description of that which is made by Mr. Ramsden, with its latest improvements. This is an excellent instrument; and both its construction and use are fully described by Mr. V. in a manner which, we conceive, will afford satisfaction to most practical astronomers, to whom alone it must be chiefly interesting, it being necessary to inspect and use the instrument in order to comprehend the principles upon which it is formed.

Chap. IX. and X. contain an account, the first, of Mr. Ramsden's new instrument for measuring horizontal angles; and the second, of his new circular instrument, which are generally allowed to possess great merit, both for the excellence of their construction and their extreme accuracy; which is such, that any thing more complete can scarcely be expected. As they are here described, however, it is not easy to obtain such an idea of them as would enable a person, who had not seen the instruments and been accustomed to use them, to apply them to practice in scarcely any of the cases in which they may be employed. Mr. V. we have no doubt, has been at considerable pains to inform himself upon the subject, but his description of the instruments is by no means clear or satisfactory.

In

In a future edition of his work, we hope to see this part of it more fully explained and illustrated.

Chap. XI. treats on the use of the simple telescope, with directions to observers. In this article will be found a number of pertinent observations, and several hints and directions, which are worthy the attention of practical astronomers, at least of such as are not already well versed in the use of this instrument.

The XIIIth and last chapter treat on the use of interpolations in astronomy; but in this we perceive nothing new, either in matter or method. The subject has already been amply treated of by several of our best mathematical writers, and scarcely admits of being placed in a more perspicuous light. As it is here given, however, it may be found useful to the young astronomer, who has not a number of other books to consult; as may also the tables, which are given at the end of the work, concerning refractions, the dip of the horizon, &c.

Upon the whole, we think this will be found a useful performance; and could wish the author would extend his plan, by adding another volume on the methods of applying the observations made in a fixed observatory to different astronomical purposes, which would be highly acceptable to many persons, and would also render the work more conformable to its title, as it would then be, strictly and properly a Treatise on Practical Astronomy.

ART. IX. *An Essay on the Scurvy: shewing effectual and practicable Means for its Prevention at Sea. With some Observations on Fevers, and Proposals for the more effectual Preservation of the Health of Seamen.* By Frederick Thompson, a Surgeon in the Royal Navy, resident at Kensington. 8vo. 207 pages. Price 4s. in boards. Robinsons. 1790.

THE commerce of this country, and its naval military operations, in both which it stands so conspicuous in the history of nations, have perhaps suffered more from the destructive influence of this disease, than from any other single cause; respecting which it seems also to have been a peculiar fatality, that whilst all other circumstances which retarded the progress of trade, and counteracted the spirit which has ever pervaded our fleets of war, gradually gave way to the improvements in the construction and navigation of ships, and whilst even the treatment of other diseases derived improvement from experience and observation, the causes of scurvy seem for ages totally to have eluded investigation, and the mode of treating it, though varied according to the different opinions and situations of medical men, appears during the same period to have been alike unequal to its cure. And, indeed, were the attention

of practitioners now, as formerly, directed only to the cure of the disease, we believe their practice would still be equally unsuccessful, as we have yet to learn what medicines have the power; the specific power, if we may use such an expression, of arresting its progress when it has once become a confirmed disease. We are particularly led to this reflection from a persuasion, that an attention to the means of prevention has been the principal circumstance which has produced the favourable difference between the present and former state of the disease in our ships; and, however the honour of the healing art may suffer by the remark, we believe it must be acknowledged, that the cause of humanity, and the best interests of our country, have, in this instance, been more indebted to the observations and exertions of intelligent commanders and masters of vessels, than to medical men. It will be sufficient to mention the name of the celebrated Cook, to prove the truth of this remark, as it cannot fail to bring to the reader's recollection the important services which he has, in this respect, rendered to his fellow-creatures. But though much has been lately done in preventing and lessening this disease by an attention to cleanliness, ventilation, food, and cloathing on board ships; and this, we think, has been effected principally by captains of vessels, and other naval officers; there can be no doubt but there is still ample room for further improvement, and perhaps in circumstances to which even the most intelligent masters of vessels would be alone incompetent. From whom then are we to expect it, but from medical and philosophical men; from those, of this description, who are in possession of the greatest number of facts appertaining to the disease, and whose situations admit of making and varying experiments which have a relation to it? Under the impression of these sentiments we cannot but encourage every attempt to forward a business so truly important.

The work before us, which is written by a gentleman, who, during a long service in the navy of this country, seems to have had ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with the disease, consists of an introduction, six sections, and an appendix. The introduction exhibits some general facts respecting the destructive tendency of the disease, with a view to point it out, as they do very sufficiently, as a subject which demands the peculiar attention of medical men. Section 1 describes the diagnostic signs of scurvy. Section 2 the prognostics. Section 3 the predisposing causes of scurvy. And section 4 the proximate causes of the disease. These, however, contain little that is new; in the section on the proximate causes of scurvy, the author indeed indulges his imagination a little in supposing that the depraved state of the bile, induced by various causes to which persons are exposed in long voyages, and which are

here enumerated, produces the principal symptoms of the disease. 'If, says the author, I may be allowed to suppose the crasis of the bile impaired, I may infer that it must be incapable of answering its original salutary purposes; in consequence of which, that relaxed state of the solids evident in the scurvy is produced; the blood degenerates from the healthy standard; all the secretions become imperfect, particularly the more refined, as that of the cerebrum, &c. and as in this case the brain and its appendages, cannot properly perform their functions, the organs of digestion so plentifully (and, no doubt, usefully) stocked with nerves, will become debilitated: and the new supplies of chyle will be deprived of a due quantity of that nervous influence, probably indispensably necessary to the formation of a truly nutritious fluid.'—For aught we know this may be the case, but we have no further proof of its being the proximate cause of scurvy, than of the disease being produced by suppressed perspiration, and the supposed consequent detention of those foul and gross particles, which usually pass off by the pores of the skin, and which has been a favourite doctrine with some of the most celebrated writers on this disease. Section 5 is on the prevention of the scurvy, and as our author seems to think with us, that the means of prevention are more within our power, than those of cure; we are pleased to find, that he has bestowed his principal attention to this part of the subject. He acknowledges that the cure is extremely difficult at sea, 'indeed, how can it, he says, be otherwise; the causes still existing, and the means of cure commonly inadequate?'

The true scurvy existing only in certain situations, it is obvious that its cause is to be sought for in some of the circumstances peculiar to these situations, and that its prevention must consist either in their removal, or at least in the use of such means as counteract their influence. The principal circumstances of this kind which our author notices, as conducing to scurvy, have a relation to cold and moisture, to the mode of labour and times of sleep on board ships, and to the diet of sailors; for he seems to be persuaded that 'the disease might, in a great measure, be prevented by correcting the humidity of the air betwixt decks, by better regulating the time of seamen's labour, and by adopting a more wholesome diet.' In this section he therefore enters very fully on the means which, he conceives, would effect these different purposes. To prevent the air in the different parts of the ship being injured by moisture or impurity, he recommends the use of scuttles between decks, where they can be made with safety; that the ballast be well dried and sifted before it be taken on board; that charcoal fires be made between decks when the air is humid, either from the state of the atmosphere, or when it is loaded with noxious vapours from the bilge

bilge water; and when the lower or middle decks of the ship are washed, which, he says, ought to be done every second or third day, when the weather will permit. On the principle 'that fire is the most powerful preventive and destroyer of humidity and contagion,' he further recommends, that common sulphur, or a composition of sulphur, nitre, and vinegar, should occasionally be burnt on these fires, and that frequent fumigations with tar, aromatic woods, tobacco, junk, &c. be practised. He thinks also, that wind-sails very much assist ventilation in summer, and in hot climates, but 'the wind-sails in common use, he says, are by no means well contrived to answer the intentions of them,' he suggests therefore an improvement in their figure and application, which, we think, worth attending to.

With respect to other mechanical contrivances 'for extracting foul air out of the ships holds, wells, store-rooms, and for forcing fresh air into those places,' he thinks Mr. Merlin's forcing air pump to be the best adapted for this purpose; and this he particularly commends, as being easily worked, taking up little room, not being expensive, or liable to want repair. To prevent the ill effects of the sailors suffering from excess of labour, and from too frequently interrupted sleep, he proposes an alteration in the plan of watching, which, though we cannot here fully enter into, appears to be well adapted to prevent the inconveniences which must arise from the short time usually allotted to sleep on board of ships. As tending also to prevent vexation and despondency in the sailors, which powerfully predispose to disease, the author recommends, on the part of the officers, 'as much indulgence and civility as are consistent with the service; and the avoiding any appearance of wanton severity. When officers conduct themselves in a humane, yet steady and manly, manner, enforcing strict discipline, without unnecessary punishment, they are certain of securing the respect and esteem of those they command. Such conduct will create confidence in the minds of the men, will reconcile them to their situation, and will increase their contentment and happiness, which will contribute greatly in warding off diseases. Seeing then that a contented mind is of great importance in preserving health, it should be inculcated in the breast of every young officer, as an unalterable principle, always to endeavour to reconcile strict discipline with humanity and good treatment.'

On the subject of diet the author is particularly comprehensive; indeed, in no circumstance does the situation of sea-faring persons, especially in long voyages, differ so materially from that of those on shore as in diet: without adverting, therefore, to any of the theories which have been adopted respecting the proximate causes of scurvy, there can be no doubt of the great influence which the food
of

of sailors, which is often deficient in quantity, and perhaps always comparatively deficient in nutriment, must have in inducing disease; the propriety of our author's having particularly attended to it is therefore sufficiently obvious, and we recommend this part of the work, not only as relating to a subject important in itself, but as containing some very judicious observations on the several articles of food generally used in ships, as well as some excellent directions for improving the diet of sailors. Mr. Thompson laments that it has generally been thought impracticable to substitute any other articles of food in the place of those which are universally used, as biscuit, salt butter, cheese, salt beef, pork, &c. from an idea that no other kinds of provision can be so well preserved during long voyages. He admits that it would be difficult to supply the place of salt beef and pork by any other animal food, which could be preserved equally well, though even these, he thinks, might be prepared in a way less likely to injure the nutritive quality of the food, than salting does*; but he is satisfied that several of the others might be advantageously changed for articles which would keep equally as well, and be more salutary. Brown sugar and molasses, he thinks, might be preferred to salt butter and cheese, and wheat to peas, as more nutritive; 'wheat, he says, may be boiled in water till all the husks burst, and till almost all the water is evaporated, which is about three hours; then a sufficient quantity of sugar or molasses may be added to make it grateful.' But the most important article which he wishes to substitute is bread for biscuit. He is convinced that the process of baking, on a scale large enough to supply a ship's company with good bread, may be carried on without inconvenience. 'Flour,' he says, 'will take up less room than biscuit. The quantity of flour sufficient to make bread for three months will not require more room than one month's biscuit. A cask containing five bushels, or 280 pounds of flour, will make 400 pounds of fermented bread, and will be sufficient for 400 men one day: 400 pounds of biscuit will take up as much room as three or four casks of flour.' We have been at the pains to calculate from some other premises, whether this quantity of flour will really produce as much bread as is here re-

* Some experiments of this kind have already been suggested by Mr. Rigby, in his *Essay on Animal Heat*, under the article scurvy, which he recommends to the attention of sea surgeons; perhaps, if Mr. Thompson has not seen that publication, he may be induced, by a perusal of it, to make some of the experiments alluded to, and in the hands of one who has so much attended to the subject, some real improvement is to be expected from them.

lated, and we find that our author is rather below the mark, which we mention as being much in favour of his plan, the proposers of new schemes being often not a little disposed to magnify the advantages of them. Being convinced, also, that a liberal supply of good beverage contributes to preserve health, Mr. Thompson suggests, that when the small beer is exhausted, or, from the temperature of the air, becomes unfit for use, treacle beer should be made, which, if well hopped, he is convinced would be as good as the small beer usually sent on board, and infinitely more wholesome than spirits. He therefore minutely describes the process of brewing this beer, and the several modes of preserving yeast, hops, &c. An obvious advantage from frequently brewing this beer, would be the production of a sufficient quantity of yeast for the bread.

We sincerely wish that these important suggestions may be sufficiently attended to; we have no doubt of its being practicable to put them into execution, and no one can doubt of their great utility; indeed, had the work before us nothing to recommend it but the plan for brewing and baking, it would be a valuable performance; for we verily believe, with our author, 'if the sailors be supplied with good fermented bread and beer, such as is described above, they will have little reason to dread the scurvy.' Section 6 is on the cure of the scurvy. The means proposed for the prevention of this disease being in general equally useful in promoting its cure, the use of garlic, onions, horse-radish, wine, porter, treacle beer, cyder, and the conserves of fruits, &c. are recommended. Our author acknowledges, that there are few articles in the *Materia Medica* which have an immediate efficacy in curing this disease, but he says, 'the Peruvian bark, winters bark, sarsaparilla, saffrafras, ipecacuanha, opium, rhubarb, cream of tartar, squills, camphor, nitre, lenitive electuary, electuary of Cassia, tamarinds, &c. are occasionally found of great use in this complaint, and ships ought to be well supplied with them, particularly with the Peruvian bark.' In the appendix are added some more observations on the different circumstances belonging to scurvy, and on the means likely to prevent other diseases on board ships; many of which, with the several details of scorbutic cases, which we should have before observed are dispersed through the work, we think merit the reader's attention. P.

ART. X. *A Treatise on the Culture of the Vine; exhibiting new and advantageous Methods of propagating, cultivating, and training that Plant, so as to render it abundantly fruitful. Together with new Hints on the Formation of Vineyards in England.* By William Speechly, Gardener to the Duke of Portland. 4to. 224 pa. Pr. 1l. 5s. in Boards. Nicol. 1790.

MR.

MR. Speechly, who is already advantageously known to the public, as a practical gardener and planter, has now given a very ample and satisfactory treatise upon the vine, in four books.

The first book, which is near one half of the volume, treats upon the *culture* and *management* of the vine.—Mr. S. sets off with informing us, that above one hundred sorts of grapes are now growing at Welbeck; and out of these he gives an account of fifty, which appear, as he expresses it, to be distinct species: he should have said varieties, as he had called them before; but he has confounded *kind*, *species*, *sort*, and *variety*, altogether in the same page. We shall forbear, however, from criticising Mr. Speechly's language, because he is not a person who has had the advantage of a learned education; though, at the same time, we think that when a mere practical man appears before the public, he should intreat some friend to put him into a proper dress.

Mr. S. treats first on the management of the vine in the hot-house.—In the first place, situation and soil are maturely to be considered. The situation must either be dry, or rendered so: the best soil is a compost mould, of one-fourth garden mould or strong loam, one-fourth turf from a pasture where the soil is a sandy loam, one-fourth of the sweepings and scrapings of pavements and hard roads, one-eighth of rotten cow and stable-yard dung mixed, and one-eighth of vegetable mould from decayed oak-leaves.

The best natural soil for the vine is a rich sandy loam, mixed with crumbling flaty stone.

The vine admits of being propagated by seeds, layers, cuttings, grafting, and inoculation.

Having observed that the first method, is the only one to obtain new kinds of grapes; and having obviated the objections to the practice: Mr. S. recommends the improvement of the fruit, by judiciously bringing bunches of different kinds together at the time of flowering. Having occasion here to mention the Syrian vine, he introduces an account of a prodigious bunch of grapes, produced at Welbeck, from this kind, weighing nineteen pounds and an half, with a note on it by Mr. Pegge, the celebrated antiquary.—He then proceeds to give directions for saving the seed, sowing it, managing the plants after they are come up, transplanting, &c.

Hints on the common methods of propagating the vine, by layers and cuttings.—A more advantageous method of raising it from a single eye, and about three inches and an half of the last year's wood; which first occurred to the Rev. Mr. Michell, who is well known as an excellent philosopher, and from whom a letter is given in a note, containing a full detail of his method. Mr. S. himself is very full on this practice, and on the management of the plants, after they are finally placed

in the hot-house.—The vines may be permitted to run twenty or twenty-five feet, and when remarkably strong, even thirty feet. A shoot of the white muscat grape of Alexandria was forty-six feet seven inches in length, in the large hot-house at Welbeck.—Account of the great progress of vines at Kelmarsh, in Northamptonshire, from William Hanbury, Esq;—On pruning.—Great attention required during the time the vines are in flower.—When the grapes are at their last swelling, and till they are nearly on the point of being ripe, the vines will require a plentiful supply of water. The situation of them in pine-stoves, is similar to that of the vines in very hot countries; and at the Madeiras they do not plant vineyards, except where they can have a command of water.—Directions for packing grapes for carriage,—and for thinning the berries in the bunches whilst they are young.—The manner of training the vine against the back wall of the stove, and along the rafters.—This book has a plate, representing the plan of an approved pine and grape-stove.

Book II. On the Vinery.—The most useful form for this is a flued wall, twelve or fourteen feet high, in a direction from E. to W. with a roof and glass lights, covering a border of about ten feet wide on the S. side of the wall. An elevation and ground-plan of such a wall is given in a plate.—Erections of small dimensions are called grape or vine-frames. In vineries and frames for early forcing, the roof must be steep, and flatter for the summer.—Directions for planting the vines at proper distances, and for training them both against the back-wall and in front. On this Mr. S. writes much in detail; he also gives a plate, representing six different stages of vines trained against a wall.

Further observations on the culture of the vine, on vineries, vine-frames, &c.

Further observations on pruning.—Expedients to stop the bleeding of a vine.

General observations on watering the vine.

Book III. On grafting of vines,—‘a practice little known in this country, though the advantages resulting from it are many and important.’—The principal of these is, ‘the improving the various kinds of grapes, and particularly the small kinds, which generally make weak wood.’—Method of performing the operation. The author prefers grafting by approach.

On the different species of insects that infest the vine; with proper methods of destroying or preventing them.—The insects are,—1. The *acarus*, or red spider. 2. The *thrips*. 3. The *aphis*, or plant louse. 4. The *coccus*.—All these, except the first, which is the most destructive, may be destroyed by a strong fumigation of tobacco. To destroy the acari,
Mr.

Mr. S. recommends one pound of flour of sulphur to be well mixed with two ounces of Scotch snuff, or very good tobacco-dust, and the under-side of the leaves to be brushed with this mixture, by means of a small common painting brush.

On the age and stature of the vine; and of the durability of vitiginous wood.

Mr. S. gives some account of large and old vines, from the ancients, from Evelyn, and from some modern travellers. He also gives a plate and description of a vine at Northallerton, in Yorkshire, which covered a space of 137 yards: a description of a second at Valentine, near Ilford, in Essex, the branches of which cover the entire roof of a pine-stove, 70 feet long, and 18 broad: and of a third at Bury, covering 44 yards in length of a wall 10 feet high. Of the produce of the second, the gardener, for some years, made upon an average 100l. per annum.

Book IV. On Vineyards.—Mr. S. declares in favour of the opinion, that there have been formerly vineyards in many parts of England; and that good wine may be made in this country, in a propitious season.—He considers, 1. The situation. 2. The soil. 3. The kinds of vine. 4. The mode of management.—The situation should be elevated with a S. or S. E. exposure.—The vine delights in gravelly and rocky soils.—The most proper kinds are those which are cultivated in Germany, particularly that of which Rhenish wine is made.—Mr. S. does not undertake to give general directions for the management of a vineyard; but only offers a few ideas on the subject, and particularly on the mode of training the vines. He has also, in a plate, given the section of a hill proper for the growth of vines in England.

Mr. S. concludes his work with extracts from Vispré's Dissertation on the growth of wine in England, Hanbury's Complete Body of Gardening, and an account of the vineyard at Pain's-hill, from Sir Edward Barry's treatise on wines; to show that we might have vineyards of our own, to advantage, in this island.

That we might have vineyards, and make good wine, with proper management, in the southern and western parts of the island, on a dry soil, with a southern exposure, there is no doubt: but we hesitate very much, considering the very frequent wetness of our autumns, whether they would answer upon the whole. We have also accustomed ourselves so much to wines of a particular flavour, that unless something of the same kind could be produced, the *vigneron* would find it difficult to procure a market for his wines. We therefore look upon that part of Mr. S.'s book, which treats of the management of vines in hot-houses and vineries, to be the most valuable. There he speaks from long, actual experience, accompanied

accompanied with excellent judgment; and we are certain, that persons who can afford it, may, by heat and good management, enjoy the luxury of grapes well matured, and equal in flavour to the produce of more genial climes.—We could have wished that Mr. S. had been more methodical in his arrangement; but he has given us much useful information, on a subject of which he is master.

ART. XI. *English Botany; or coloured Figures of British Plants, with their essential Characters, Synonyms, and Places of growth. To which will be added, occasional Remarks.* By James Sowerby. 8vo. In monthly numbers, pr. 1s. each. White. 1790.

THIS work is published monthly in numbers, and is evidently on the plan of Mr. Curtis's magazine. It does not, however, in the least interfere with that, which professes to give exotic plants only; nor greatly with the *Flora Londinensis*, which is on a much larger scale. The paper, printing, &c. of the *English Botany*, are much more elegant than in the *Botanical Magazine*. Mr. Sowerby's known skill, and happy talent in giving faithful as well as beautiful portraits of plants, will recommend the figures; and we are pretty certain, that we discern the pen of the learned possessor of the Linnæan collections in the remarks, &c.

‘The prevailing taste (says the author) for botanical pursuits, and the encouragement afforded in this country to every work which tends to advance them, have given rise to the present undertaking. It remains with the public to judge of the merit, and to decide whether it should be prosecuted or not. A knowledge of the plants of our own country is in many respects preferable to that of exotics, as it can be much more completely attained, and is, on several accounts, more directly useful. The humble productions of our fields and woods are not deficient in beauty, elegance, or singularity of structure; there is an indispensable necessity for those who are occupied with the rural economy of any country, to be well acquainted with them: the study doubles the pleasure of every journey or walk, and calls forth to healthy exercise the bodily as well as the mental powers.

‘It seems extraordinary that no successful attempt has hitherto been made to illustrate British plants by original figures, on a cheap and compendious plan; especially as the advantage of good figures is so generally allowed. It is hoped, therefore, the present reasonable and commodious publication will by no means be considered as a burthen on the public.

‘To avoid this, the author has declined copying what others have said, and in general means to refer only to the *Species Plantarum* of Linnæus, with the *Floras* of Hudson, Curtis, Lightfoot, Withering, Relhan, Ray, &c. He will spare no pains to have his botanical characters and synonyms accurate; and as he is so fortunate as to have access to the first sources of information, he hopes this part of his plan will be executed so as to deserve approbation, and also that in his remarks he may sometimes have an opportunity of presenting his readers with matter altogether new.’

The

The first number presents us with three scarce and interesting plants: *Cypripedium Calceolus*, or *Ladies Slipper*; *Veronica spicata*, or *Spiked Speedwell*; and *Erica vagans*, or *Cornish Heath*.

If the beauty or scarcity of a plant, or the singularity of its structure, entitle it to our notice, the *Ladies Slipper* certainly merits the first place in a work on British plants.

Veronica spicata is one of those plants which, wherever they grow, are found in abundance, and yet are by no means common in England. The orifice of the tube of the corolla is bearded, which we do not find remarked in authors. *Flora Danica*, plate 52, represents no such character; but, indeed, that figure is so incorrect, it is impossible to be certain whether it be the *V. spicata*, or one of the species nearly allied to that plant.

Cornish Heath, although very abundant in that county, has not yet been found in any other part of England. Mr. Hudson referred it to the multiflora of Linnæus; but it is undoubtedly his *vagans* which he so called, because found in so many different and remote countries. We have not been able to meet with a figure of this plant in any author.

We have given the above extracts to enable our readers to judge of the merits of this work, which promises to be executed in a manner that cannot fail of securing the public approbation. For the elegance and fidelity of the figures, we must refer to the work itself.

The second number contains two common, and one uncommon plant, all of the genus *Primula*.

The third number exhibits *Paris quadrifolia* *Chelidonium Glaucium*, or *Yellow Horned Poppy*, and *Saxifraga oppositifolia*.

M. T.

ART. XII. *Der Finmarkske Magazins Samlinger, &c.*—*The Commercial Magazine of Finmark, containing a Variety of Papers and Observations relative to the Commerce of that Country, and the new Regulations adopted since the first of June, 1789, through the Medium of which, a free Trade and Commerce between the Inhabitants, and every Part of his Danish Majesty's Dominions in Europe has succeeded to a chartered Monopoly: interspersed with Remarks on the various Articles of Import and Export to and from the several Ports of Finmark. Illustrated with a Geographical Map.* By Charles Pontoppidan, Counsellor of State, and One of the Directors of the late Finmark Company, &c. Copenhagen. 8vo. 328 pages. 1790.

FINMARK, the remotest corner of Norway towards the east, though at all times a valuable part of that kingdom, has long been neglected, and involved in all those evils which attend the wretched subjects of baneful monopolies. However, the time is come at length, when the Danish government, awakened and made sensible of their own interest, have annulled the numerous fetters, with which her distant possessions had been bound.

bound. Since 1786 Iceland and Finmark have become the objects of free trade and commerce, and new privileges have been granted to new settlers: privileges which do honour to our refined age and the persons who framed them. To promote the wishes of government on this subject, was the important task assigned to Mr. Pontoppidan. It was impossible to make strangers aware of the advantages which were held out to their view, without a description of those places; and a circumstantial description both of those countries and of their present situation was the more necessary, every useful information being generally withheld on purpose from the world by all corporations. Fortunate it was that Mr. Pontoppidan has been bred a merchant in the trade to Iceland, and advanced to the head of those affairs which concern that island and Finmark: no doubt can be entertained of the veracity of his animated accounts, which, besides, breathe much philanthropy, and love to his sovereign.

Chapter the first treats of Finmark in general.

Finmark strictly called, contains the county of *Wardebus*, and running from west to east a length of 150 German miles from Tromsøen, ends at the little island of Lyngesluen, where the Russian Lapland begins. The western part is called Finmark, from which *Lapland* on the eastern part is different only with respect to its name, and the inhabitants, though divided into *Fins* and *Laps*, speak the same language, and are called Norwegians, Swedes, and Russians, according to the nations to whom that spot which they inhabit belongs. The whole surface of Finmark is computed to consist of 1260 square miles, of which 200 are land; the rest is sea and water. The civil government is in the hands of a grand bailiff, a judge, and a sheriff. The ecclesiastical state is divided into nine rectories or parishes, under the inspection of two provosts or deans. The resources from which the inhabitants derive their support are the fisheries. However, a considerable profit arises from the reendeer, for, besides that these animals when drilled are used instead of horses, to go to very remote parts in a sledge loaded with the driver and baggage of 180 pounds, their flesh, skins, horns, bones, tallow, suet, and milk, which gives exceedingly fine cheese, furnish as many valuable articles.

In the south parts of Finmark the inhabitants grow corn, which is ripe in less than eight weeks during the summer, and the vales are covered with fine grass. The forests and extensive woods are rich in game, of which the ermine has always been held in high estimation. The minerals are gold, silver, lead and iron.

In the remotest periods of time it is well known that the kings of Norway laid claim to that country: it was
their

their custom to grant an exclusive privilege of trading with the Fins, to one of their favourites, as early as in the year 969. Harald Hairfair lodged this right in one Thorulf, a nobleman, who besides acted as a collector of the taxes paid by the people to his master. These consisted chiefly in furs, which, for the greater part, were exported to England, and exchanged for cloth, flour, malt liquors, and other commodities. The succeeding kings kept a watchful and jealous eye over other nations who attempted a direct trade in those remote parts, and frequent disputes, which had been carried on through centuries between Norway, Russia, and Sweden, about the sovereignty, were at length settled by the treaty concluded on the 18th of October 1751, between Denmark and Sweden, relative to the boundaries of both kingdoms. With respect to foreign powers, the disputes between Christian IV. and queen Elizabeth, terminated in the English settlement at Archangel, and to the advantage of England.

CHAP. II. recites the changes to which the commerce of Finmark has been subjected since 1702. The charter granted in this year to the merchants of Bergen, consisted of forty-four articles, lasted 13 years, and ended, as all monopolies do, in the ruin of all concerned. In 1715 liberty was given to every citizen of the countries of Bergen and Thrundheim* to trade to Finmark, which being found during the course of fifteen years congenial to both nations, and advantageous to the public, furnished three Burgers of Copenhagen with weighty reasons to draw, through royal authority, the commerce into their own hands. In short, private interest got the better of public welfare, and a Hudson's Bay Company was hatched and nourished in the heart of Denmark. This insult to common sense was punished as it ought to be, with a loss of 40,000 rix dollars in the space of eleven years, too small a sum when compared with the public loss and the decay of population, the unavoidable consequence of monopoly. From 1741 till 1786 the same principles, under a number of succeeding companies, were followed, and the effects constantly produced. Those were at length abandoned, and in order to put a stop to these ill consequences, a committee was appointed to examine the present state of the country, and find out measures which might restore happiness. The secret was soon disclosed, and a free trade succeeded, under the sanction of an edict dated on the 17th of July, 1789. The contents of this edict are as follow.

1. Persons of every persuasion established on the tenets of the christian religion, shall have a right to settle in Finmark, and enjoy perfect liberty of worship.

2. Every inhabitant, of whatever religion he be, shall have a right to buy lands, to whatever extent he pleases.

3. Every

* According to our orthography Drontheim.

3. Every citizen shall be exempted from all taxes and duties payable to government, during the term of 20 years.

4. The new settler shall moreover be free for the duty of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, payable on capitals laid out on interest, and the use of stamps.

5. The town established in Finmark, and their inhabitants, shall, for the space of 20 years, be exempted from all customs and excise, spiritous liquors only excepted, which shall pay one shilling per gallon, and, collected by the custom-house officers, shall be appropriated to the public benefit of the new settlements.

6. In the same manner the export of home productions is free during the course of 20 years.

7. Upon the same principles goods, and cargoes of every description imported from foreign parts, in order to be again exported, shall be free from duty, notwithstanding they have been imported in foreign bottoms.

8. The ground which is necessary for the establishment of a new town, shall be purchased at the public expence, in case it be private property; but if it belongs to the crown, it shall be given gratis to the new settlers. In both cases an exact survey and a legal conveyance shall be made.

9. The new settlers are moreover entitled to the support of government with respect to building materials.

10. The grounds which have been surveyed, and conveyed to a new settler, shall be his sacred property for ever, unless it be not occupied with a building belonging to him in the space of two years next following; under that circumstance the ground returns to the crown, and may be given to another.

11. Every person, whether native or foreigner, applying to the grand bailiff of the county, shall receive gratis a certificate of being received a citizen, after having taken the oath of allegiance.

13. A foreigner who thus settles in one of the new towns, shall immediately enjoy the same rights and privileges which belong to a native of Finmark, and after the end of six years next following, he and his posterity shall be considered as entitled to all the rights which belong to a native of either kingdom.

14. Every new settler has liberty and right to leave the country whenever he pleases without paying any fine, and without respect to the length or shortness of his residence in the country.

15. A new settler may make use of any trade he chooses, without a licence, except that of distilling spiritous liquors, and keeping a public house, for in both these cases an application must be made to the grand bailiff.

16. Handicrafts, whether natives or foreigners, will be encouraged, in the most effectual manner, by the chamber of finance.

17. Every person therefore shall have full liberty to exercise his trade and business as master, and his apprentices, having served their time, shall enjoy all the privileges which belong to the same trade in that town, wherein he may settle at a future period.

18. It is expressly enacted, that no corporation shall be permitted to take place in any of these new settlements.

19. A new settler or citizen shall receive an annual premium of one rix dollar, or four shillings per ton, on every vessel his property, laid up in any of the Finmark harbours during the winter.

20. Every citizen, being enrolled as a merchant, shall have liberty equal with any other merchant in the king's dominions to use his trade both with the natives and foreigners, whether they are Swedes or Russians.

21. All imports and exports to and from Finmark shall go through the new towns.

22. Those citizens who are retail traders shall have liberty to order their commodities from whatever place they may please in the king's dominions.

23. Citizens only shall have liberty to sell foreign goods in their markets.

24. Those of the citizens who engage in the fisheries shall enjoy the same privileges which have been granted to the other citizens of the two kingdoms, and they shall be entitled to a premium of 15 rix dollars, or 3l. per ton, for every ship, not exceeding 500 tons, they may fit out on the whale fishery under Spitzbergen, and the parts adjacent.

25. The same laws of exchange which are prescribed in the Norwegian code of law, shall be observed in Finmark.

26. The government is lodged in the hands of the grand bailiff of Finmark, who besides shall have the power of deciding in matters relating to the customs.

27. But justice shall be administered within the new settlements, by the justice of peace residing in the town of Hammersfelt, till the said new settlement can arrive to such a degree of maturity as may enable them to appoint their own magistrates.

28. And then shall the community obtain their own public seal, after having made an application to his majesty for that purpose.

CHAP. IV. recites the various articles, and their quantity, which have been exported from Copenhagen to Finmark during the years 1786—87, among which we are sorry to observe 460 hogheads of common brandy and 36 of French brandy. Of sugar 12730lb. treacle 12000lb. tobacco 20930lb. We only find 700 copies of common prayer books, and 87 reams of paper imported. The imports of Finmark in 1786 amounted to the sum of 40476 rix dollars, 24s. Nine ships, burden 900 tons, were employed in the trade, at the stipulated freight of 12300 rix dollars.

CHAP. V. describes, with a critical knowledge, every article fit for the Finmark market, imported from foreign parts, and gives many useful hints with respect to the trade with Russia through Archangel, where many articles are so loaded with export duties, that Denmark, though situated at so immense a distance, furnishes them much cheaper than the market in Russia.

CHAP. VI. VII. contain an exact account of the various articles exported from Finmark from 1765 to 1788, specifying quantity and quality, for every year separately: from this account we will extract the following articles as the most interesting.

• Fish

‘ Fish of various kinds 70008 cwt. cablian 4769 barrels, herrings 7246 barrels, ditto horns of reendeer 200714lb. ermine 11030 pieces, goat skins 9696 ditto, tallow 67000lb. matts 13960 pieces.’

CHAP. VIII. describes with a critical minuteness the various export articles of Finmark to the Mediterranean, the Baltic, Hamborough, and France; and we see that Barcelona, Bilbao, Cadiz, Genoa, and Leghorn, have paid for fish exported from Finmark in the course of 1779 to 1784, the sum of 1814992 rix dollars.

CHAP. IX. contains various observations on Finmark, which though local, and only applicable to that country, suggest many valuable hints to the Danish government.

CHAP. X. to XIII. explain the topographical contours of each of the eight establishments, and are equally well calculated to guide the merchant and the commanders of vessels destined for those harbours. The hydrographic observations rest upon actual surveys preserved in the archives of the late company, and the detail of commodities raised for the market in each of those places, has been laid down by the author after long experience, acquired during his office.

CHAP. XIX. examines the several regulations which at various periods have been adopted for the improvement of Finmark; and the author observes, that whereas Denmark and Norway raise at home every commodity necessary for their inhabitants, commerce must be highly beneficial on both sides, particularly to those who carry on the active trade; and he anxiously wishes that government would divide their cares between husbandry and the fisheries, in order to preserve and promote the population which, during the course of this century, has been reduced to 965 families.

I. I.

ART. XIII. *Histoire Critique de la Noblesse, depuis le commencement de la Monarchie, &c.*—*A Critical History of the Nobility of France, from the Commencement of the Monarchy to the present Time, in which their Robberies, Crimes, and Prejudices are exposed: clearly demonstrating that they have been the Scourge of Liberty, the Advocates of Oppression, the Foes of Knowledge, and the Enemies not only of their Fellow-Citizens but of their Sovereigns.* By John Dulaure, Citizen of Paris. 8vo. 322 pages. Paris. 1790.

THE annihilation of titles is one of the many singular events attending the late revolution in France. The intention of the author of the present work is to shew, that as a *body*, the nobility have ever been prejudicial to the state, and that the abolition of this powerful order of subjects, is founded on the purest principles of justice and of wisdom. M. Dulaure thinks that

that as punishments are reserved for the guilty alone, so distinctions should be the exclusive privilege of merit, and that it is equally unjust to appropriate the rewards of other men's virtues to ourselves, as to be subject to the punishment of other men's crimes.

'Nobility' says he, 'a distinction equally impolitic and immoral, and worthy of the times of ignorance and of rapine, which gave it birth, is a violation of the rights of that part of the nation that is deprived of it, and as equality becomes a *stimulus* towards distinction, so on the other hand this is the radical vice of a government and the source of a variety of evils. It is almost impossible that there should be any uncommon instances of virtue in a state, when recompences belong exclusively to a certain class of society, and when it costs them no more to obtain these than the trouble of being born. Amongst this list of privileged persons, virtues, talents, and genius, must of course be much less frequent than in the other classes, since without the possession of any of these qualities, they who belong to it are still honoured and rewarded. Those who profit by this absurd subversion of principles, and those who lose by this unjust distribution of favours, which seem to have grown into a right, cannot have any other than false, immoral, and pernicious ideas concerning merit. It may be objected to me, that as nobility has been abolished, it is now unnecessary to write against it: to this I answer, that the pretended nobles are still in existence. We may in a moment give new laws to an empire, but it takes a whole age to change opinions: it is not in one day that we can alter prejudices, strengthened, nay consecrated, by the lapse of twelve centuries.'

M. Dulaure, having finished his introduction, commences his work by observing, that the annals of France afford nothing else than a chronology of crimes, the recapitulation of which is painful and disgusting. The Huns, Vandals, Burgundians and Visigoths, who successively made war on the Gauls, seemed only to enter their country, to overspread it with terror, desolation, and death. The Franks, a brutal and wandering people, who lived on plunder, were still more barbarous; according to the Abbé Mably, 'they looked upon Gaul, now called France, as an enemy's country, merely because it contained a rich booty, and were continually making inroads into it, for the purpose of depredation.'

All barbarous nations have a nobility, and adopt hereditary distinctions; this our author thinks is the error of uncultivated societies; the principle which admits no other distinction in the community, but that of talents and virtues, is on the contrary the perfection of civilization. The first Franks who, after the conquest of the Gauls, obtained particular distinctions, were such as had become eminent by their warlike exploits. These known by the names of *Fideles*, *Antrustions*, or *Leudes*, were the first *grandeos* of the monarchy; and were enriched
by

by the donations of the Merovingian race of kings. They afterwards usurped the administration of justice, and subjected the vassals within their territories to a multitude of grievances peculiar to the feudal system. It was not, however, till about the year 615, that *feuds* became hereditary, and that is the epoch when nobility in France may be said to have been first established. Our author concludes his first chapter by observing, that the most ancient and illustrious families date their origin from this period, a period which gave birth to a tyrannical and absurd establishment, that was the destruction of commerce, the bane of agriculture, and which if it did not introduce, at least prolonged the triumph of barbarity!

We are told in chap. 2, that the titles of *grandeess* and nobles were given to assassins, robbers, and persons guilty of the most infamous crimes. The high-roads became unsafe on account of the arbitrary duties imposed by them, all communication was in a great measure prevented between distant places, contributions were levied on footpassengers, and it was not uncommon for the nobility, nay even those of the blood-royal, to issue forth from their castles, accompanied by their hawks, and surrounded by their servants, and under pretence of hunting, to way-lay, plunder, and often murder those who, by their appearance, seemed to offer them a rich booty. In these incursions the villages were not only reduced to ashes, and stained with the blood of their inhabitants, but even the churches became a prey to their avarice and rapacity. ‘During the reign of *Louis le Gros*, the habitations of the nobility were so many dens of thieves, from which the owners sallied forth to plant ambuscades for the unwary stranger; and custom seems at length to have legitimated this mode of plundering others and of enriching themselves.’

While every part of the kingdom was thus laid waste by these noble spoilers, *Badouin*, Count of Flanders and of Artois, by a noble example in his own person, and the most rigorous justice in regard to others, attempted to restrain the ravages of the feudal Barons; but an untimely death put an end to his patriotic efforts.

‘A poor woman having with many tears complained to him that one of his courtiers had stolen two cows from her, which were the whole of her property, this prince ordered him to be arrested, and the *chevalier* having acknowledged the robbery, was immediately condemned to death. His relations being alarmed at the sentence, fell at the count’s feet, and supplicated him, that the culprit might not be *hanged* according to his sentence. The prince consented to their request, but instantly ordered the criminal to be carried to the public square, where he was thrown alive into a cauldron of boiling oil, without giving him time to take off his clothes, or even unloose his *spurs*, the emblems of his chivalry.’

CHAP. III. contains an account of the atrocious crimes committed by the nobility during the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

turies. The castle of *Roche-Guyon*, remarkable for the tyranny of its lords, was in the year 1113 possessed by count Guy, of whom the historians of that day have left the following extraordinary eulogium.

'This young courageous batchelor, was neither a *traitor* nor a *felon* like his ancestors; he lived peaceably without *plundering* and without *robbing*, but he also would undoubtedly have become a *robber*, had he but lived a little longer.'

CHAP. IV. treats of the crusades against the Saracens, and of the conduct of the nobles during those expeditions.

Among many other instances of the barbarity and arrogance of the nobility, who waged war against the infidels, we are told the following, which is extracted from the history written by the son of the emperor Alexis.

'A French count, on a solemn occasion, had the audacity to seat himself by the side of the emperor of the West, and even upon his throne. Baudouin, brother of Godfrey of Bouillon, with some difficulty persuaded him to retire, which he at length did, exclaiming "it was a strange thing that a Greek should dare to sit in his presence."

Simon de Montfort, celebrated hitherto as a hero, is here proved to have been guilty of rapine, perjury, and violence.

In Chap. 5, the military associations of the people called Brabançons are described. Du Guesclin, a famous warrior, putting himself at the head of these plunderers, marched towards Avignon, and informed the pope, that being about to carry arms against the Saracens, he and his followers were in immediate want of *absolution*, and 200,000 *francs of gold*, both of which requests were instantly granted him by the holy Pontiff.

CHAP. VI. contains a description of the ancient military establishment, composed of vassals, and led by the nobility, who usually lived in *free-quarters* at the expence of the peasants, and plundered and oppressed them in the most cruel manner.

In chap. 7, our author attempts to prove, that contrary to the opinion of Montesquieu, the nobility have always been the greatest enemies of the throne. The first attempts by the nobles against the royal authority, are traced up to the seventh century, when they obliged the princes Gontran and Childebert to make their *fiefs* or possessions hereditary. Charlemagne, notwithstanding his immense power, was obliged to redress their usurpations, and to place counts and marquises, who were his *creatures*, in the room of the dukes, who had become the rivals of his authority. *Louis le Debonnaire*, with his wife and children, was imprisoned by the *grandeas*; Charles the Bald, and Louis III. were forced to grant them whatever they desired; Charles le Gros was deposed, and Louis IV. was driven out of
the

the kingdom by them. In fine, the religious persecutions of France, and all its civil wars were, according to M. Dulaure, occasioned by the pride, ambition, vanity, treachery, or baseness of the nobility!

The royal authority having acquired additional strength in the reign of Louis XIV. that monarch held the grandees in subjection by means of the favours he conferred, and the promises he made to them. This prince seemed to say to his nobility, 'I do not choose that my people should be oppressed by any body but myself. Let me plunder them, and if you flatter me afterwards, we shall divide the spoil between us.'

The following singular occurrence during the late reign, is worthy of recapitulation.

'I beg leave to repeat a circumstance little known indeed, but nevertheless true, that fully characterises the disposition of our modern nobility. The gallery at the castle of Choisi, where Louis XV. frequently resided, was adorned with several pictures painted by Hallé, Vanlo, &c. the subjects of which were taken from some of the memorable events in the Roman history. Among the rest there was a very fine painting by M. Vien, representing Marcus Aurelius distributing provisions and medicines among the Roman people, at a period when they were perishing by famine and the plague. The nobility who formed the court of Louis XV. thinking at a time when bread happened to be uncommonly dear, and the misery of the people had become excessive, that the sight of these pictures might inspire the king with *remorse*; might, in other words, make him better, by inciting him to imitate the example of Marcus Aurelius; they contrived to remove these lessons of practical morality from his sight, and actually substituted four miserable daubings by Pierre in their room, which exhibited an equal number of insignificant allegories.'

The remaining chapters are employed in describing the miseries introduced by means of the feudal system; the unhappy situation of the vassals, and the cruel tyranny of their lords. The author thus concludes:

'If this work has animated the reader with indignation against those citizens heretofore called nobles, and inspired him with a contempt for their persons, I declare that these are not the sentiments which I wish to excite, and that it is not the *nobles*, but *nobility*, that I have endeavoured to describe in a manner, that while it adhered to truth, could not fail to make this distinction appear detestable. I have never attacked their *persons*, but when their vices and their characters tended to elucidate the vices and the character of the institution; then indeed I have done so, without any manner of reserve.

'I have not however pretended to affirm, that no great man has ever arisen from among the nobility. There have been, more especially since the late progress of philosophy, many grandees who have become conspicuous among their own order, and who have dared to triumph over a prejudice which, while it flattered their
vanity,

vanity, did violence to their reason. The vices, which in all ages have corrupted the minds and perverted the judgment of the nobility, were no more engrafted on their hearts than on those of other men; they existed solely in the pernicious errors of that establishment to which they belonged.'

ART. XIV. *Sketch of the Character of his Royal Highness the Prince of Denmark; to which is added, a short Review of the present State of Literature and the polite Arts in that Country. Interspersed with Anecdotes.* In four Letters, by a Gentleman long resident in Copenhagen, to his Friend in London. 8vo. 126 pages. Price 3s. 6d. sewed. Ridgway. 1791.

EVERY thing that concerns Denmark is particularly interesting to an Englishman, on account of the commercial intercourse, the long alliance, and intimate connection between Great-Britain and that country. The pamphlet now before us appears to have been written by a gentleman who has resided for some years in Copenhagen, and who seems to have been in a situation that enabled him to gratify curiosity, and convey information.

Letter I. contains an account of the prince royal of Denmark. The character of his royal highness, who is the nephew of our own sovereign, seems to be uncommonly amiable. This prince was born on the 28th of August, 1760; for the first four years of his life, he was nursed by his royal mother, the celebrated and unfortunate Carolina Matilda, and in his eighth year placed under the care of general Eichsted, one of the ministers of state, and George Sporon, a learned Dane; his own household was then fixed, and his table was surrounded twice a day by the most distinguished characters, and particularly by men of letters. At a very early period he seems to have discovered abilities which would have reflected credit upon riper years, particularly as they were balanced and directed by a cool and deliberate judgment. We are told that his conversation always turned on the noblest subjects that could possibly suggest themselves to the human mind: the rights of man, the constitution of Denmark, and the relative situation of the surrounding nations.

Having taken his seat in the privy council in 1784, he began his political career by redressing the grievances of the people. He avowed himself an enemy to the oppression exercised by means of general warrants, in consequence of which they were instantly abolished. He also saw, with indignation, that the peasants were in a situation but little better than the brute creation, for they scarcely could be said to possess any locomotive power, as they had not the liberty to leave one estate, and settle on another, without purchasing the permission of
Vol. IX. Y their

their masters; for if they dared to remove without this, they were claimed in the same manner as *stray cattle*.

The chains of feudal slavery were broken by his royal highness, and the vassals of the kingdom emancipated from their dishonourable bondage.

This prince has also stood forward, more than once, in defence of the first blessing that a nation can possess; that of the liberty of the press. p. 3.

At the time that he received his father's orders to assist him in bearing the burden of the state, public affairs wore a more favourable aspect than perhaps at any other period, at least for some time past. An application was made to him to restore the CENSURE, in order that nothing might be printed which had not passed the ordeal of the university. Those who preferred this request had address enough to insinuate, that his royal highness himself had been treated with a freedom beyond what he ought, in some pamphlets, which, if passed over in silence, might give birth to consequences the most alarming. His highness listened to these artful suggestions with attention peculiar to himself, and at the end of which he declared, "that sorry as he was that any part of his conduct should be viewed through a medium so unfavourable, and yet perhaps in some respects just, as all men were subject to err; that he felt himself more indebted to those who had courage to point out his failings, than to those friends whose partiality induced them to varnish or throw them into shade; and that in future he should endeavour to act in such a manner as to leave as little cause of complaint as possible;" and he assured the gentlemen before they parted from him, that it was so far from his intention to advise his father to restrain the liberty of the press, that he should be the first to stand forward and support that law which his father had promulged in favour of it, as he was persuaded, with his royal parent, that it added to the happiness of the subject. Let any one, added the prince, who may conceive himself injured in that respect, sue the author in a court of law, and I am persuaded that he will meet all that justice to which his cause may entitle him.'

We are further told, that this accomplished and philosophic prince has made several regulations in commerce, highly favourable to the prosperity of Denmark. The trade of Iceland, monopolised for upwards of four centuries, was thrown open by his advice, in 1787, to all the subjects of the kingdom; and foreigners have been invited to settle in that country, by means of immunities and advantages, and particularly by the liberty of being permitted to worship the Supreme Being in whatever manner they please.

His royal highness patronises letters, and has settled liberal pensions on several men of merit; he is also the avowed friend of all societies for the promotion of knowledge, and particularly that, the object of which is to encourage the cultivation of natural philosophy throughout the Danish dominions. In

private

private life his character is equally amiable; he relieves, with promptitude and alacrity, the distresses of his father's subjects, and frequently releases those unfortunate wretches who are immured in jails by hard-hearted and inexorable creditors. Nor is the honest, but indigent, manufacturer excluded from his bounty; he has lately ordered a table service of china to be made, on which the *Florica Danica* is to be painted after nature, and arranged according to the manner of the great Linnæus.

Letter II. contains some account of the literature of Denmark; as this is an interesting subject, we shall subjoin an extract. p. 38.

The poems of Ragnar Lodbrok, the Scandinavian Tyrtæus, are equal to his bravery: and the poem of Bodwar Biarka, a bard and hero at the court of Hrolfs Kraka, so admirably translated by Saxo Grammaticus, the ornament of the martial reign of Waldemar the first, challenges the strictest examination of taste and genius. What has been in former ages may happen again, and it by no means follows, that, because his royal highness has taken upon himself the arduous task of restoring to his beloved people that generous spirit and discipline which have so often won the glories of the well-contested field [that it should be otherwise.] Literature and sciences are at present not neglected in Denmark, and the Danes are far from being strangers to the divine influence of Minerva. The prince has fully shewn, that he is not insensible of what constitutes not only the real honour, but the happiness of his country; and that notwithstanding he devotes much of his time to the discipline of his troops, in the end it will be found equally divided betwixt your Parnassian favourites, and the sons of Thor*. His royal highness has entered at large into the views of his father, which he follows up with an ardour that borders upon enthusiasm. Under these auspicious beams we see the *Flora Danica* expand and flourish, and professor Vahl enrich the botanical garden of Charlottesburgh, with new treasures collected through Norway, Spain, and various parts of Africa, all of which have been described and published in his *Botanical Tour*. The work of *Shells*, which Regenfus had begun with such an happy imitation of nature, that art might be said to rival her in that respect, is now continued by the Rev. John Hiernich Chemniz, the first Conchyliologist of our age, and Laurence Spengler, keeper of his majesty's museum, a gentleman highly esteemed for his extensive knowledge, and, what is better, universal philanthropy.

But whilst natural philosophy is cultivated by a society of men, whose patient researches and ingenuity can only be equalled by their *amor patriæ*, history is not left to say, that she that has embalmed the memory of others, is forgotten herself. The *Scriptores Rerum Danicarum*, of which the seventh volume will soon appear, is an undertaking, which, in point of correctness

and elegance, may vie, nay excel, Muratori's. This of course must reflect honour on the editors Langebeck and Suhm.

We are told, that besides a royal society formed on the same principles as those of London and Paris, there is also a society for illustrating the Scandinavian history, and another for the promotion of Icelandic literature.

Letter III. treats of the Danish language, which, it seems, is now patronised by the court, and cultivated with equal assiduity and success.

Letter IV. contains a slight survey of the rise and progress of the polite arts in Denmark. We are told, that the Danish kings have always gloried in protecting and encouraging even the most feeble efforts of genius. Frederick II. procured artists from every part of Europe, and left Cronenburgh and Fredericksburgh as a standard, even at this day, of taste and magnificence. This monarch was succeeded by Christian IV. whose love of painting, architecture, and statuary, can only be compared to his courage and magnanimity, which perhaps are unequalled. Not satisfied with having reared the palaces of Rosenburgh and Jøgersburgh, he built the town of Christiania in Norway; Christianshaun contiguous to Copenhagen, and Christianstad, Christianopol and Gluckstad, in his German provinces. As to his taste for painting and sculpture, the pictures of Carl. Van Manderen, a Flemish artist, whom he invited to Denmark, and the sepulchral monuments, sacred to the memory of his predecessors Christian III. and Frederick II. in the cathedral of Roskild, furnish the most ample proofs.

Frederick IV. a prince endowed by nature with uncommon sense, caught a taste for the arts in his travels through Italy. Christian IV. followed the footsteps of his father, and under pretence of building a palace, invited the best artists of every denomination from abroad, who were protected and encouraged by him. Frederick V. no sooner mounted the throne, than he showed how anxious he was to improve and embellish the capital. Copenhagen by his means was enriched with the addition of a new quarter, called Fredericstad, which our author asserts, in point of architecture and situation, rivals Portland-place.

The royal academy, which has experienced the patronage of three succeeding monarchs, is dedicated to the improvement of painting, architecture, and sculpture. The prince royal is president of this institution, and the present director, Nicholas Abeldgaard, is a painter of uncommon merit. It is expressly forbidden by the statutes to admit an associate without a specimen of his merits; and when any one is anxious to obtain this honour, whether he is a native or a foreigner, he

he must first lay it before the senate, when, if it is found worthy of their approbation, it is carefully preserved and publicly exhibited in the apartments of the academy.

ART. xv. *A Letter from Mrs. Gunning, addressed to his Grace the Duke of Argyll.* 8vo. 147 pages. Price 3s. sewed. Ridgway. 1791.

THE occurrences which gave rise to this publication have lately engaged the conversation of the public, and furnished a fruitful theme of speculation for the news-papers.

The daughter of General Gunning is young, beautiful and accomplished, and as it has been industriously reported, was some time since wooed by two marquisses, the heirs apparent to two dukedoms, the one of which was bestowed on a brave and fortunate warrior in the reign of Anne, while the illustrious possessors of the other claim an alliance with the sovereign of Scotland, from whose bounty they received their honours.

Occupying the first ranks of society, and visited and caressed by the highest circles of fashion, while all her relations congratulated themselves with the prospect of seeing her in a short time a *happy and a titled bride*, it was suddenly whispered that the young lady, from a spirit of *coquetry* and *intrigue*, had *forged* letters purporting to be written from one of those young noblemen to herself; that she had bribed several of the servants of the family to carry on the imposition, and counterfeited the hand writing, and even procured the seal of the D. of M. on purpose to deceive her father. On this occasion General Gunning *thinking* that he had procured the most authentic and undoubted proofs of his daughter's fraud and duplicity, ordered her to leave his house; but her mother fully convinced of her honour and innocence, and assisted by the generous liberality of the duchess of Bedford, was determined to participate in her exile, and under the form of a letter to the duke of Argyll, uncle to miss Gunning, has now appealed to the public in justification of her own character and that of her daughter.

Mrs. Gunning opens her correspondence with his grace by observing, that surrounded, not by the *declared* but by the *secret and determined* enemies of her innocent daughter, she has but this one method of communicating her ideas to him. She then attacks the character of miss Gunning's cousin, a lady to whose efforts, and those of her husband, she ascribes the unhappy situation to which herself and daughter are now reduced, and then calls in the former un sullied character of miss Gunning, to disprove the suspicions now raised against her innocence.

There is a *gradation* in wickedness, my lord: can a young creature, just turned of twenty-one, who has been the *glory* of her family,

family, beloved by her friends, revered by her acquaintance, adored by the children of poverty, and the sweet soother of distress, wherever or whenever it made its claims upon her gentle heart, in palaces or in cottages, in robes or in rags; still, as it was in *distress*, the whole large stock of her sympathetic kindness was ever open to its demands.

‘ Can a young creature who deserves this character, and that she does deserve it there are many animated witnesses besides her *silent actions*, which have been uniformly good and virtuous, from the earliest dawn of reason to the present hour of her affliction: can such a being as this, be supposed in a few short months, to forfeit all pretensions even to common honesty, and I may add to common sense? If she had been the very wretch she is represented to be, her *understanding* would have prevented her from making choice of a fool, for the confidant of her forgeries: and what end were these forgeries to answer? I cannot comprehend it!’

Mrs. Gunning says that the general’s groom having been sent with a letter to ——— (there is a blank in the pamphlet, but the person here alluded to is said to be the head of a ducal family in Oxfordshire) he returned with an answer on the night of the third of February, which from the direction, the seal, &c. all of which Mrs. Gunning carefully examined in the presence of several witnesses, appeared to her to have been counterfeited.

‘ The letter which General Gunning’s groom brought from ——— has been said, and *said too by her father*, to have been one *dictated* and *written* by my daughter for the purpose of imposition. This accusation amounts to the *direct* charge of forgery, deceit, and a species of vanity, that I should suppose could never have entered a female breast, where the door of folly as well as of vice, had not *stood open* to receive it. I suppose your grace has heard *my darling* accused of bribing her father’s groom as well as of her employing him in the conveyance of her forgeries. Had *she* forged the letter from the ——— of ———, had she prevented the groom from going to ———, had she seduced him from the obedience due to his master, no doubt a descent from the summit of honour, which had so many years been her residence, must have been attended with some difficulties; and in such an incumbered path, and to so young a traveller, who had never before explored the *beaten* but intricate means of deception, she would have found no means of pursuing her journey without the aid of that *conductor*, whose assistance on such occasions cannot be dispensed with. Where a *groom* is made useful to intrigues of policy, this *bagatelle* may be admitted, that without a *bribe* there can be no *corruption*, and without money there can be no bribe. That she *never* has been possessed of money sufficient for *such* undertakings is not in her *disfavour*; she has ever had something for the aid of goodness, but nothing for the support or purposes of vice.

‘ Again, my lord, permit me to ask another question, by what *magic* she got possession of a *seal*, with the *coronet* and *arms* of that family, on whom it is alledged she has committed this *despicable* fraud; how came she by the coronet and cypher of another branch

branch of that *most* honourable house? From any part of *either* family she could not even have procured the impressions of *those* seals, because she does not know any but the *principals* of the family. But admit the possibility of her having, by some means or other *not to be accounted for*, got the impressions of them, (for I have not yet heard that *my angel* has been accused of absolutely *stealing* the seals themselves) what a theme for a mother's pen! Yet it does not *bumble* me, on the contrary, I never till *now* have known the extent of my own consequence; and though always proud of my *treasure*, never have I been half so proud as during the time of her *unmerited* and *unheard* of trials; it is to *them* I owe the discovery of a thousand of those perfections of the soul, that adversity, and adversity only, can call into action.'

To the accusations brought against the purity and candour of miss Gunning's conduct, that young lady has replied on *oath*; denied them all in the most solemn and unequivocal manner; and pledged 'her character in this world, and her everlasting salvation in the world to come,' on the truth of her asseverations. We forbear, from a point of delicacy, to adduce any of the charges brought against General Gunning by his lady, and have from the same motive forborne the insertion of several passages reflecting on the honour of an officer and his wife, frequently alluded to, as they also have *sworn* to the truth of their accusations, in regard to miss Gunning. We shall conclude this subject, which as yet seems to be involved in inextricable mystery, by the insertion of two letters lately written by the general and his daughter, between whom, after the *violence* of the moment has abated, we trust that there will be a sincere and cordial reconciliation.

Copy of General Gunning's Letter to his Daughter.

' MONDAY EVENING.

' From a heart that still feels most sensibly the affections of a father, for her who was dearly beloved, proceeds this letter; that afflicted father desires an interview with his unfortunate daughter, in which she may depend on having no more to fear than the workings of an anxious and perhaps over indulgent parent. The time and place of meeting is left entirely to her, who is even now dear to

J. GUNNING.'

Copy of Miss Gunning's Answer to her Father.

' Turn'd from your doors defenceless, pennyless, and robb'd by you of what is and ever will be dearer than my life—my character—stigmatized for forgeries which those who really did forge the letters, and *you* sir, *must* know I am as innocent of as heaven is free from fraud; you whom I never offended in thought, word, or deed, to cast me out upon the wide world as a guilty creature, when you know my heart would not have harboured a thought that could have dishonoured you, myself or my sex; and after you have thrown me off, to pursue me as you would the bitterest of your enemies, to raise up false witnesses to crush that child whom you should have protected with your life; innocent as I again repeat

you *know* me to be, even had I been guilty, which God be praised I am not, still you should have screened me, and your chastisements should have been softened by pity. You call me unfortunate, I am unfortunate; who has made me so? This unfortunate will never appear in your presence 'till you have announced, and that in the most public and most unequivocal manner, to the whole world, how much she has been wronged by scandalous contrivances, and unheard-of calumny.

E. GUNNING.

O.

ART. XVI. *Authentic Memoirs of William Augustus Bowles, Esq; Ambassador from the United Nations of Creeks and Cherokees, to the Court of London.* Fools cap 8vo. price 2s. sewed. Faulder. 1791.

THE title of these short memoirs naturally raised our curiosity, and the author has contrived to keep it alive in rather an extraordinary manner till almost the last page, for we every moment expected that the inflated preparatory eulogiums would introduce the wonderful achievements of the hero of the tale; but declamation supplies the place of facts to the end of the chapter.

T.

ART. XVII. *Rights of Man: being an Answer to Mr. Burke's Attack on the French Revolution.* By Thomas Paine, Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Congress, &c. and Author of *Common Sense*. 8vo. p. 162. 3s. sewed. Jordan. 1791.

THE public, or rather mankind in general, have very considerable obligations to Mr. Burke, for bringing under review and discussion in his celebrated publication, so many topics of the highest importance to human happiness. Fortunately for the present age, politics and government are no longer mysteries enveloped in the dark shades of divine right and feudal prejudice; in the present dispute men will be taught by their interests to determine on which side the force of argument preponderates.

The author of the present work brings into the field of controversy a name not less celebrated than that of his distinguished antagonist. It is unnecessary to inform our readers of the influence which his celebrated pamphlet, entitled '*Common Sense*,' is supposed to have had in producing the declaration of American independence. The self-same spirit pervades the publication which lies before us. It forms, indeed, an eminent contrast with that of his opponent. Each of them interests our feelings, but in a different manner: elegant and declamatory, Mr. Burke seduces us along by the charms of his eloquence; plain, but forcible, Mr. Paine carries us away with him by the invincible energy of truth and sense. Fanciful and
 excus-

excursive, Mr. B. delights the imagination by the beauty of his metaphors, and the splendour of his ornaments; while his opponent holds our judgment captive by the native vigour of his arguments, the originality of his sentiments, and the pointedness of his remarks. Mr. B. is the polished and playful courtier, who dances in his chains; Mr. Paine is the stern republican, who exults in his liberty, and treats with equal freedom the monarch and the peasant. In a word, without subscribing implicitly to every principle which our author advances, we cannot in justice withhold this testimony to the work before us, that it is one of the most curious, original, and interesting publications, which the singular vicissitudes of modern politics have produced. Independent of its value as a polemical work, it is truly excellent and useful in an historical view. In it the springs and sources of the French revolution are traced with the acuteness and perspicacity of a Tacitus; his information bears its authority upon the face of it, and almost convinces by the weight of its internal evidence.

Mr. P. begins with remarking on the rude and uncivil manner in which Mr. B. has commenced an unprovoked attack upon the national assembly, while neither they nor the people of France were troubling themselves with the affairs of England, or of the English parliament. He very happily ridicules Mr. B.'s position, 'that the people of England utterly disclaim the right of choosing their own governors, &c. and will resist the practical assertion of it with their lives and fortunes,' by observing, 'that men should take up arms, and spend their lives and fortunes, *not* to maintain their rights, but to maintain that they have *not* rights, is an entire new species of discovery,' &c. The mode which Mr. B. takes to prove this extraordinary position, Mr. P. observes, is not less marvellous: 'For his arguments are, that the persons in whom these rights did exist, are dead, and with them the right is dead also.' In the same pointed style Mr. P. exposes the absurdity of any parliament, or body of men, pretending to bind or controul posterity to the *end of time*; and remarks, 'that the vanity and presumption of governing beyond the grave, is the most insolent of all tyrannies.'

Mr. P. terms Mr. Burke's book, 'a tribute of fear.' He shews that it was not against Louis xvith. but against the despotic principles of the government the nation revolted; that the government of France was a chain of despotism, and that this despotism was even most intolerable in the inferior departments: in a word, that Mr. Burke might have been in the Bastille his whole life, as well under Louis xvi. as Louis xiv. and that neither the one nor the other have known that such a man as Mr. B. ever existed.

After

After remarking that Mr. B.'s book is not a work of argument, but a mere dramatic performance, Mr. P. proceeds to a detail of the real *causes* which produced the violences which Mr. B. so tragically laments. About a week before the storming of the Bastille, a plot was forming, at the head of which was the count D'Artois, for demolishing the national assembly, and seizing its members; for this purpose a large military force, chiefly consisting of foreign troops, was collected under marshal Broglio, 'a high-flying aristocrat, cool, and capable of every mischief.'

'The abp. of Vienne (continues Mr. P. p. 27.) was at this time president of the national assembly; a person too old to undergo the scene that a few days, or a few hours, might bring forth. A man of more activity, and bolder fortitude, was necessary; and the national assembly chose (under the form of a vice-president, for the presidency still resided in the archbishop) M. de la Fayette; and this is the only instance of a vice-president being chosen. It was at the moment that this storm was pending (July 11.) that a declaration of rights was brought forward by M. de la Fayette, and is the same which is alluded to in page 15. It was hastily drawn up, and makes only a part of a more extensive declaration of rights, agreed upon and adopted afterwards by the national assembly. The particular reason for bringing it forward at this moment, (M. de la Fayette has since informed me) was, that if the national assembly should fall in the threatened destruction that then surrounded it, some traces of its principles might have the chance of surviving the wreck.

'Every thing now was drawing to a crisis. The event was freedom or slavery. On one side, an army of nearly thirty thousand men; on the other, an unarmed body of citizens; for the citizens of Paris, on whom the national assembly must then immediately depend, were as unarmed and as undisciplined as the citizens of London are now.—The French guards had given strong symptoms of their being attached to the national cause; but their numbers were small, not a tenth part of the force that Broglio commanded, and their officers were in the interest of Broglio.

'Matters being now ripe for execution, the new ministry made their appearance in office. The reader will carry in his mind, that the Bastille was taken the 14th of July: the point of time I am now speaking to, is the 12th. Immediately on the news of the change of ministry reaching Paris in the afternoon, all the play-houses and places of entertainment, shops and houses, were shut up. The change of ministry was considered as the prelude of hostilities, and the opinion was rightly founded.

'The foreign troops began to advance towards the city. The Prince de Lambesc, who commanded a body of German cavalry, approached by the Place of Lewis XV. which connects itself with some of the streets. In his march, he insulted and struck an old man with his sword. The French are remarkable for their respect to old age, and the insolence with which it appeared to be done, uniting with the general fermentation they were in, produced

duced a powerful effect, and a cry of *To arms! to arms!* spread itself in a moment over the city.

Arms they had none, nor scarcely any who knew the use of them: but desperate resolution, when every hope is at stake, supplies, for a while, the want of arms. Near where the prince de Lambesc was drawn up, were large piles of stones collected for building the new bridge, and with these the people attacked the cavalry. A party of the French guards, upon hearing the firing, rushed from their quarters and joined the people; and night coming on the cavalry retreated.

The streets of Paris, being narrow, are favourable for defence; and the loftiness of the houses, consisting of many stories, from which great annoyance might be given, secured them against nocturnal enterprises; and the night was spent in providing themselves with every sort of weapon they could make or procure: guns, swords, black-smiths hammers, carpenters axes, iron crow's, pikes, halberts, pitchforks, spits, clubs, &c. &c.

The incredible numbers with which they assembled the next morning, and the still more incredible resolution they exhibited, embarrassed and astonished their enemies. Little did the new ministry expect such a salute. Accustomed to slavery themselves, they had no idea that liberty was capable of such inspiration, or that a body of unarmed citizens would dare to face the military force of thirty thousand men. Every moment of this day was employed in collecting arms, concerting plans, and arranging themselves into the best order which such an instantaneous movement could afford. Broglie continued lying round the city, but made no further advances this day, and the succeeding night passed with as much tranquility as such a scene could possibly produce.

But defence only was not the object of the citizens. They had a cause at stake, on which depended their freedom or their slavery. They every moment expected an attack, or to hear of one made upon the national assembly; and in such a situation, the most prompt measures are sometimes the best. The object that now presented itself, was the Bastille; and the eclat of carrying such a fortress in the face of such an army, could not fail to strike a terror into the new ministry, who had scarcely yet had time to meet. By some intercepted correspondence this morning, it was discovered, that the mayor of Paris, M. D'efflesselles, who appeared to be in their interest, was betraying them; and from this discovery, there remained no doubt that Broglie would reinforce the Bastille the ensuing evening. It was therefore necessary to attack it that day; but before this could be done, it was first necessary to procure a better supply of arms than they were then possessed of.

There was adjoining to the city, a large magazine of arms deposited at the hospital of the invalids, which the citizens summoned to surrender; and as the place was not defensible, nor attempted much defence, they soon succeeded. Thus supplied, they marched to attack the Bastille; a vast mixed multitude of all ages, and of all degrees, and armed with all sorts of weapons: Imagination would fail in describing to itself the appearance of such

such a procession, and of the anxiety for the events which a few hours or a few minutes might produce. What plans the ministry was forming, were as unknown to the people within the city, as what the citizens were doing was unknown to them; and what movements Broglio might make for the support or relief of the place, were to the citizens equally as unknown. All was mystery and hazard.'

It is well known, that the taking of the Bastille was the immediate consequence of this enthusiasm of liberty. The enterprise broke up the new ministry, and the troops of Broglio dispersed. In this contest more of the citizens fell than of their opponents; four or five persons were instantly seized by the populace, and put to death. With respect to the cruelty of exposing their heads on spikes, &c. Mr. P. remarks, that they only took a lesson from the old government, 'the heads stuck upon spikes, which remained for years upon Temple-bar, differed nothing in the horror of the scene from those carried about upon spikes at Paris.'

Mr. P. objects to his opponent's statement of the transactions of the 5th and 6th of Oct. that 'he (Mr. B.) begins this account by omitting the only facts, which as causes are known to be true.' These were principally, the discontent excited by the delay manifested by the king, when requested to sanction the declaration of rights: and the outrageous conduct of the *garde du corps*, in trampling on the national cockade, &c. Our author intimates, that the enemies of the revolution were more forward in provoking this riot than its friends, and that many of them insinuated themselves among the mob. Their object was, by exciting tumult, to afford the king an excuse and opportunity for escaping to Metz. As soon as it was known, that a mixed multitude had set off from Paris to Versailles, M. de la Fayette set off after them, with 20,000 of the Paris militia; and happily arrived time enough to prevent any mischief: all was quieted by his arrival, and the only inconvenience was, that as there were not houses enough to receive the people in Versailles, vast numbers were obliged to take up their abode in the streets, &c. during the night. p. 41.

'In this state matters passed till the break of day, when a fresh disturbance arose from the censurable conduct of some of both parties, for such characters there will be in all such scenes. One of the *Garde du Corps* appeared at one of the windows of the palace, and the people who had remained during the night in the streets accosted him with reviling and provocative language. Instead of retiring, as in such a case prudence would have dictated, he presented his musket, fired, and killed one of the Paris militia. The peace being thus broken, the people rushed into the palace in quest of the offender. They attacked the quarters of the *Garde du Corps* within the palace, and pursued them throughout the avenues of it, and to the apartments of the king. On this tumult,

tumult, not the queen only, as Mr. Burke has represented it, but every person in the palace, was awakened and alarmed; and M. de la Fayette had a second time to interpose between the parties, the event of which was, that the *Garde du Corps* put on the national cockade, and the matter ended as by oblivion, after the loss of two or three lives.

‘ During the latter part of the time in which this confusion was acting, the king and queen were in public at the balcony, and neither of them concealed for safety’s sake, as Mr. Burke insinuates. Matters being thus appeased, and tranquillity restored, a general acclamation broke forth, of *Le Roi à Paris—Le Roi à Paris*—The king to Paris. It was the shout of peace, and immediately accepted on the part of the king. By this measure, all future projects of trepanning the king to Metz, and setting up the standard of opposition to the constitution, were prevented, and the suspicions extinguished. The king and his family reached Paris in the evening, and were congratulated on their arrival by M. Bailley the mayor of Paris, in the name of the citizens. Mr. Burke, who throughout his book confounds things, persons, and principles, has in his remarks on M. Bailley’s address, confounded time also. He censures M. Bailley for calling it, “*un bon jour*,” a good day. Mr. Burke should have informed himself, that this scene took up the space of two days, the day on which it began with every appearance of danger and mischief, and the day on which it terminated without the mischiefs that threatened; and that it is to this peaceful termination that M. Bailley alludes, and to the arrival of the king at Paris. Not less than three hundred thousand persons arranged themselves in the procession from Versailles to Paris, and not an act of molestation was committed during the whole march.’

As Mr. B. has, ‘with his usual outrage,’ called the French declaration of the rights of man, ‘paltry and blurred sheets of paper about the rights of man,’ Mr. Paine enters into a very able defence of these rights, and proves, that antiquity is no sanction to error.—‘Man did not enter (says he) into society, to become *worse* than he was before, nor to have less rights than he had before, but to have those rights better secured.’ He describes three sources of government; 1. Superstition, 2. Conquests, and 3. The common interest of society and common rights of man. Into the two former of these, Mr. P. resolves most of the existing governments of Europe; that of England he considers as a government by conquest, viz. by the Norman William, and he traces with much ingenuity many parts of our government into this source, such as Mr. Burke’s favourite language, ‘our sovereign lord, &c.’ After this, our author draws a comparison between the new constitution of France, and that of England; greatly, it must be confessed, in favour of the former, particularly with respect to equal representation, the game laws (which are abolished in France), the chartered monopolies, the exclusion of place-men and pensioners

oners from the legislature, the right of peace and war residing in the nation, &c. On the subject of *titles*, Mr. Paine argues, that as soon as a people become enlightened, these will naturally fall into contempt, and that it is absurd to lament the loss of what society concurs to ridicule. The evils of aristocracy are next pointed out with uncommon poignancy of remark and force of reason, among these primogeniture holds the first rank, the extreme folly and injustice of which is completely demonstrated, if it could be said to need demonstration. Unnecessary offices, &c. are created, Mr. P. observes, in order to provide for the younger children of great families, who by the law of primogeniture, are literally beggars. The good policy also of a 'corporation of aristocracy,' (a house of lords) is reasoned against with equal force and freedom.

From this topic Mr. Paine pursues Mr. B. to that of the clergy, and here it is necessary to correct the mis-statements of Mr. B. and his vindicator. The latter would insinuate, that some of the clergy are *lowered* to 40l. *per ann.*—Now the fact is, that the poorer clergy are all *raised* to 50l. *per ann.* and the rich benefices curtailed in some degree. The highest permitted in France are from 2000l. to 3000l. *per ann.*

The causes and progress of the French revolution are next detailed with much perspicuity and acuteness. Mr. P. terms it 'the consequence of a mental revolution priorly existing in France.' The causes were, in the first place, the writings of able and eminent men in favour of liberty; next to these the share France took in the American war, which taught the French soldiers, &c. a lesson of liberty; we may add the endeavours of that estimable patriot, M. de la Fayette. The derangement of the French finances immediately followed the war, and to the *spirit of the French parliaments and nation in refusing to register or pay taxes*, the revolution may be immediately attributed. The calling of the notables and their dissolution, as well as the summoning of the states-general, is accurately detailed, but the history of these events is too various to admit even of abridgment. By the history of the early proceedings of the national assembly, and the difficulties with which it had to contend, that respectable body is completely vindicated from the aspersions of Mr. B. and the moderation with which they treated their vanquished enemies is the most perfect commendation of their humanity.

After stating at large the French declaration of rights, with some judicious remarks upon it, Mr. P. proceeds, in a miscellaneous chapter, to reply to some other positions of his antagonist. 'The confusion and contradiction in Mr. Burke's book,' Mr. B. accounts for, by observing, that 'when a man in a long cause attempts to steer his course by any thing else than some polar truth or principle, he is sure to be lost.'—Thus Mr.

B. in one place asserts government 'to be a contrivance of human wisdom,' and in another part of his book virtually denies it to be so. Mr. B. asserts, that 'the Revolution Society, neither collectively nor *individually*, have a single vote for a king among them.'—Now Mr. Paine observes, that there are several members of parliament in the Revolution Society, and Mr. B. himself owns, that by a vote of Parliament the house of Brunswick sits upon the throne.

Our author very successfully ridicules Mr. B.'s expression of the king holding his crown in *contempt* of the Revolution Society: p. 124.

'When Mr. Burke says that "His Majesty's heirs and successors, each in their time and order, will come to the crown with the *same contempt* of their choice with which his majesty has succeeded to that he wears," it is saying too much even to the humblest individual in the country; part of whose daily labour goes towards making up the million sterling a year, which the country gives the person it styles a king. Government with insolence, is despotism; but when contempt is added, it becomes worse; and to pay for contempt, is the excess of slavery. This species of government comes from Germany; and reminds me of what one of the Brunswick soldiers told me, who was taken prisoner by the Americans in the late war: "Ah!" said he, "America is a fine free country, it is worth the people's fighting for; I know the difference by knowing my own; in my country, if the prince say, Eat straw, we eat straw."—God help that country, thought I, be it England or elsewhere, whose liberties are to be protected by German principles of government and princes of Brunswick.'

When Great Britain accepted a foreign king, Mr. Paine remarks, it ought at least to have stipulated for the abandonment of Hanover, and in support of this assertion, he adduces many very forcible arguments. The popularity of the present government in England, he accounts for by the general indignation of the people against the coalition; with respect to the regency business he remarks, 'that both Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Fox, took hereditary ground, and Mr. Pitt took the worst of the two.'

The house of Commons Mr. Paine very properly styles the *organ*, or instrument, of the nation; (even supposing it fairly elected) but he observes, 'that the minister, on all national questions, so far as they refer to the house of commons, absorbs the rights of the nation into the *organ*, and makes the organ into a nation, and the nation itself into a cypher.' On these and similar premises he denies, that the English nation have a constitution; whenever the funding system *shall* receive a shake, that is, whenever the people find it inconvenient to raise any new taxes, then he observes, the people will probably claim a constitution.

‘ The instance of France under the former government, shews that it is impossible to compel the payment of taxes by force, when a whole nation is determined to take its stand upon that ground.’ p. 141.

After correcting some other of Mr. B.’s mistakes, Mr. P. states how very considerably the National Assembly have improved the national finances : p. 149.

‘ Notwithstanding the late government could not discharge the current expences, the present government has paid off a great part of the capital. This has been accomplished by two means; the one by lessening the expences of government, and the other by the sale of the monastic and ecclesiastical landed estates.’ p. 150.

‘ In consequence of the revolution, the annual interest of the debt of France will be reduced at least six millions sterling, by paying off upwards of one hundred millions of the capital : which, with lessening the former expences of government at least three millions, will place France in a situation worthy the imitation of Europe.

‘ Upon a whole review of the subject, how vast is the contrast ! While Mr. Burke has been talking of a general bankruptcy in France, the National Assembly has been paying off the capital of its debt ; and while taxes have increased near a million a-year in England, they have lowered several millions a-year in France. Not a word has either Mr. Burke or Mr. Pitt said about French affairs, or the state of the French finances, in the present session of parliament. The subject begins to be too well understood, and imposition serves no longer.’

Mr. P. very sarcastically entertains himself with the idea of a *mixed* government, or a government of *this, that* and *t’other*. He remarks, that ‘ when there is a *part* of government that *can do no wrong*, it implies, that it does nothing, and is only the machine of another power.’ Government, he observes, is nothing more than *the management of the affairs of a nation* ; any absolute claims to this management he treats as preposterous.—He notices the plan of Henry the 4th, for establishing a European congress for the adjustment of disputes, and the prevention of war.—Mr. P. concludes his pamphlet in the following words : p. 162.

‘ From what we now see, nothing of reform in the political world ought to be held improbable. It is an age of revolutions, in which every thing may be looked for. The intrigue of courts, by which the system of war is kept up, may provoke a confederation of nations to abolish it : and a European congress, to patronize the progress of free government, and promote the civilization of nations with each other, is an event nearer in probability, than once were the revolutions and alliance of France and America.’

To do complete justice to this singular production, our extracts must have been much longer, but our readers will perceive, that we have already exceeded our usual limits.

ART. XVIII. *Brief Reflexions upon the Liberty of the British Subject; in an Address to the Right Hon. Edmund Burke. Occasioned by his late Publication on the Revolution in France.* By John Butler. Canterbury. 8vo. 144 pages. Price 2s. Stalker. 1791.

THERE are two species of enthusiasm, each of which we should be equally studious to avoid. The one party sees nothing but defect in the constitution of Britain, nor admires even in theory the beautiful fabrick. The other admits of no error whatever existing in the laws or constitution, allows of no necessity for reformation in any one particular, pleads prescription in favour of old abuses, and justifies new ones by some fancied analogy, or legal sophistry. The truth appears to us to lie between the two extremes. The constitution of Great Britain affords an excellent basis for public happiness, and were a few errors and abuses removed, such as the inequality of taxes, the impressing of seamen, the expences of law suits, the intolerable evils of suits in equity, *the no-law* of libels, &c. no nation would have greater cause for exultation than the people of England.

Mr. Butler must be considered as *one of the people* addressing a senator of Britain. He observes that the intrigues of cabinets have frequently done more mischief by a single rash decision than all that has been done in the French revolution. He instances the late American war; and remarks, that however our parliament may be composed, they certainly have not acted more wisely or disinterestedly than Mr. B. supposes the National Assembly of France to have done. He defends the inferior clergy of France, who he asserts were greatly more estimable and more esteemed than the superior orders. He remarks that we have laws and customs among us, which are a disgrace to a free nation; and instances the oppression which is experienced from corporations in general. He retorts keenly on Mr. B.'s charge of a stock-jobbing administration in France, by instancing the abuses of our funds, the lotteries, tontines, &c. and adds, that our property is made the sport of ministerial tools, and our liberty reduced to a non-entity.

Mr. B. notices with some asperity the absurdity of the law which would 'prove *truth* a liar,' and which professes 'to punish the solemn testimonies of sacred truth.' He complains that the people of this country 'are bought and sold like an ox;' and states some atrocious instances of improper influence at elections. The weight of taxes, Mr. B. shews, is laid in this country on the poor, and states some dreadful cases relative to the tyranny of *excisemen*, particularly two actual murders by these officers of revenue, who escaped with impunity. The game laws do not escape our author's animadversion; and of

press warrants he asserts, that 'he who issues out such dreadful orders does but sign the death-warrants of so many innocent victims; and those who execute such commands are more despicable characters than Jack Catch.' The severity of some taxes, particularly that on light, is reprobated by Mr. B. as well as the narrow principles on which our poor laws are executed, and particularly that which prohibits a poor man from removing from a parish where he is starving, to one where he might earn his bread were he permitted to settle.

The venality of the bar is next exposed, from which our author deduces this fact, that, contrary to *magna charta*, justice is actually *bought* and *sold* in this country, the jury being generally influenced by the best advocate, who is always at the devotion of the highest bidder.

Many other abuses are noticed by our author, who, though a very indifferent writer, is certainly a person of excellent sense, and one who has thought much upon constitutional subjects*.

ART. XIX. *Observations on the Right Hon. Edmund Burke's Pamphlet, on the Subject of the French Revolution.* By B. Bousfield, Esq. 8vo. 54 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Dublin printed. London reprinted. Johnson. 1791.

THIS pamphlet having originally made its appearance in another kingdom, many of the remarks and observations which it contains, have of course been anticipated in this. Mr. B. is however an original writer, and his publication is worthy the perusal of those who may possess a general knowledge of the subject. We presume Mr. Burke is by this time tolerably ashamed of his inflated and absurd account of the queen of France. The following is no unsuccessful ridicule of that extravagant passage.

P. 22. 'It is of no material consequence, except to round the period, how many years have elapsed since I saw the queen of France; but when I had that honour and that happiness, she did not appear to me any thing "like a vision;" she seemed to be formed as much of corporeal matter as any of her sex, finely moulded, and harmoniously blended.—She was not a phantom mocking the embrace.—Wherever she moved, wherever she looked, whomever she touched, she certainly animated and enchanted. To my eyes she did not "seem scarcely to touch this orb." On the contrary, she appeared to cling to the world, and the world to her. "To her title to veneration she added enthusiastic, not distant love." She was not then obliged to carry the sharp antidote against disgrace. At that time, in the various conflicts

* We have been credibly informed that he is by trade a *Shoemaker*.

of her life, it was not to the point of the dagger she applied for consolation and relief. 'There was no dreaming in those days, all was reality; her happy slumbers were not disturbed by a band of ruffians and assassins reeking with blood;' then all was hushed, her virtues were truly "amiable." Gracious with her equals, familiar with her inferiors.—Her attachments were of the closest and strongest nature: generous and unsuspicious, easy of access, and not knowing how to refuse, she dealt out her royal favours with profuse liberality.—Never did any queen of France with more munificence compensate good services, or reward great actions.—The Livre Rouge abundantly testifies her liberality.'

ART. XX. *Essai Historique & Raisonné sur la Revolution de France en 1789 & 1790, ou Lettre a Madame * * *.*—*Essay on the Revolution in France, &c.* 8vo. 238 pages. Price 5s. sewed. London, 1790. Faulder. 1791.

THE author of this tract assumes, at the outset, an air of moderation. He allows that the late government of France was unequal, that the nobles and clergy were considered as the sole pillars of the monarchy, and the people as a pedestal made only to support the column. That the inconsiderate wars and pompous folly of Louis XIV. occasioned the decline of the government and finances, that these evils were increased by the profligacy of his successor, that the Bastille was peopled with unfortunate wretches, confined only on suspicion, and that the weight of taxes was insupportable.

Our author, however, soon discovers the cloven foot of aristocracy, when he lays it down as a fundamental position—'that *submission* is the first duty of a citizen' He compares the Parisians to the Druids, who sacrificed human victims (unfortunately for the comparison, the Druids were the ruling powers and not the people); he calls them cannibals, and the national guards assassins; he asserts, that the Count D'Artois made his escape merely to save the nation from a stain which would never be effaced; he terms the French declaration of rights 'a most dangerous morsel,' and the night of the fourth of August, 'the night of dupes.' He condemns the abolition of tythes as an infringement on the order of Malta! and (can it be credited?) seriously adds, that by this rash step, the nation lost the prayers of the church for a good harvest; he extols the English government as a model of perfection, and particularly instances the game laws! he condemns the abolition of the salt tax; he allows that the ultimate sovereignty resides in the nation, but adds, as a *little* qualification, *that it is a right which ought NEVER to be exercised*; an aristocracy he considers as one of the *elements* of government; he asserts that the drunken orgies of the king's guards, which produced the disorders

orders of the fifth of October, was the *last ray of light* which beamed upon the kingdom of France. He gives an excellent and liberal admonition to the sovereigns of Europe 'to beware and check that spirit of independence which is at present so predominant in the people.' The Marquis de Favras, he remarks, died with the same fortitude as a Balmerino and a *Lovat*; and adds, that as he only *intended* a counter-revolution, he ought not to have been punished for his *intention*. The worst, however, of all the national assembly has done was, permitting the soldiery to make use of their reason.

The facts of this author appear scarcely less suspicious than his principles. In speaking of the measures which preceded the destruction of the Bastille, not one word is said of the new ministry. He denies that M. Launay ever fired upon the people; the whole of the disorders of the sixth of July he states to be a plot of the Orleans party, who bought up the corn, which they threw into the Seine, in order to produce an artificial famine! Inconsistency is ever the concomitant of error! for, after ridiculing M. de la Fayette for advancing at the head of 30,000 men to attack 500 who could make no resistance, he forgets himself in a few pages, and asserts that these 500 guards could easily have put the whole national militia to flight, had they been permitted to act.

It is but justice to add, that this pamphlet is artfully and elegantly written. It is but fair to remark, also, that we have traced in this publication all Mr. Burke's information on the affairs of France, most of his sentiments, and many of his witticisms, which are copied verbatim. Here we find the substance of his famous paradox, that in proportion as certain maxims are metaphysically true, they are practically false. The same ridicule is thrown on the division of the kingdom into separate *republicks*. The same false information is conveyed respecting the murder of the queen's guards, &c. &c.

The French patriots may collect some instruction even from their enemies. For instance, we fear there is too much truth in this author's observation, that 'had it not been for the croud of advocates who have seats in the national assembly, the trial by jury would have been adopted in civil as well as in criminal cases.'

ART. XXI. *Address of the National Assembly of France to the People: shewing what they have already done, what they further intend, and answering their Calumniators. With an Appendix, consisting of such authentic Documents as explain more fully the Changes in Government alluded to in this Address. The whole presenting a clear and short view of the late Revolution in France, and of the Principles on which the new Constitution is founded.* 8vo. 71 pages. Price 2s. Ridgway. 1790.

THIS

THIS simple collection of state papers contains a satisfactory, and, at the same time, authentic indication of the French revolution. In answer to the question—‘ what has been done?’ the assembly state, that they have traced with a firm and steady hand the principles of the constitution—that they have restored to the nation the right of decreeing its own taxes—that they have abolished all oppressive privileges—embodied a national guard—destroyed all feudal hardships—annihilated all arbitrary orders, lettres de cachet, &c.—regulated the mode of election—abolished the venality of offices in the magistracy—corrected the criminal code of laws—rendered the publick debts sacred, and discharged a part of them—abolished the salt tax—reduced the pension list, &c.

B.

ART. XXII. *Official Papers relative to the Dispute between the Courts of Great Britain and Spain, on the Subject of the Ships captured in Nootka Sound, and the Negotiation that followed thereon; together with the Proceedings of both Houses of Parliament on the King's Message; to which are added, the Report of M. de Mirabeau, and the subsequent Decrees of the National Assembly of France on the Family Compact.* 8vo. p. 100. Pr. 2s. 6d. Debrett. 1790.

THIS pamphlet contains all the information that has been published relative to the cause of our dispute with Spain, and the consequent proceedings of the two courts, as far as they were pleased to make them known.

ART. XXIII. *Letters lately published in the Diary, on the Subject of the present Dispute with Spain, under the Signature of Verus.* 8vo. p. 101. Pr. 1s. 6d. Kearsley. 1790.

THIS author takes up the pen as the champion of Old England, in defiance of a newspaper writer, who had endeavoured to blacken the character of the ministry, and to support the pretensions of the Spaniards. *Verus* appears to be well acquainted with the politics of the two nations, and considering that he is answering ‘ slander and calumny,’ his language is temperate and candid. He supports the British claims as published in the King's message, declaration, &c. &c. &c. and vindicates the conduct of the ministry.

C. C,

ART. XXIV. *Review of the Arguments in Favour of the Continuance of Impeachments, notwithstanding a Dissolution.* By a Barrister. 8vo. p. 183. Pr. 2s. Clarke. 1791.

THE author of this review, very candidly acknowledges, that the greatest part of the facts and arguments here contained,

are drawn from the late important debates in the house of commons. He observes, that 'whenever a great constitutional question arises, it is of some importance that the grounds and arguments upon which it may be supposed to have been decided, should be laid before the public in some more connected form, than the unfaithful reports of various speeches in different debates can preserve.' We readily coincide with this opinion, and think that the end proposed has been fully attained in the present publication.

ART. XXV. *Some Account of the Shrewsbury House of Industry, its Establishment and Regulations; with Hints to those who may have similar Institutions in View.* By J. Wood. To which is added; the Second Edition of the Bye-Laws and Ordinances of the said House. 8vo. 92 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Longman. 1791.

THE complicated evils arising from the present defective system of the poor laws in this country, have been long a subject of complaint, and the very heavy and encreasing burden of parochial taxes, is severely felt in most parts of the kingdom. But it is not the *expence* only occasioned by that system by which industry is taxed for the relief of distress, that is the most formidable part of it; for as the author justly observes, the morals of the poor become contaminated by the very means provided by the laws for their support.

'It is too evident that while the poor are supported in idleness, they will be averse to labour: and the indolence thus encouraged is the fruitful parent of that debauchery and depravity, and that consequent wretchedness and misery, which have made so fatal a progress among the lower orders of the community. Every caution will be relaxed, and every profligacy indulged, by men so disposed, from the consideration, that neither themselves nor their families can ever starve. And whilst families thus neglected by those who ought to provide for them are thrown upon the public, the *children* in these families, are left exposed to the worst examples. Brought up among the vicious and profligate, they must inevitably imbibe the contagion. Lying is the first lesson of their tongues, and theft too often the first exercise of their hands; every object they see is at war with decency, and every impression they receive is a vice. Thus instead of becoming as they grow up, useful members of society, they add to the mass of those who are its burden, and its pest: and the evil thus encreasing in a *compound ratio*, threatens our country with calamities too shocking to be described.'

It would seem that every effort made by parish officers to redress these disorders has hitherto proved abortive. To furnish employments for the poor, and compel them to earn part

of their own maintenance, are *desiderata* perhaps impossible to be attained under the direction and management of those who are annually chosen and annually removed. To provide a plain and simple remedy for these evils, the inhabitants of the town of Shrewsbury, instigated no doubt by a few men of equal humanity and discernment, resolved to break through the system in which their fellow citizens had so long acquiesced, and form an establishment on a plan entirely new. They therefore applied to parliament and procured an act for the government, regulation, and employment of their *paupers*, for the correction, and punishment of the idle, refractory, and profligate, and for the education of the infant poor in the habits of industry and religion. Armed with this authority they provided a comfortable asylum for such whose age, disease, or infirmity, disabled them from pursuing their various employments. They also erected a house of industry, under the direction of a proper board; in this building they provided employment for those poor who are able to work, but are either averse to labour, or cannot otherwise procure it; those who are thrown upon the parish by the mandate of the magistrate; those children whom the parish is obliged to take care of, and those also whom the parents, though industrious, are unable to maintain. By firmness and resolution, tempered with gentleness and humanity, they laboured to introduce and to establish among the members of this family, a habit of labour, of diligence, and of decency; to provide for the regular discharge of those religious duties which have a tendency to correct their morals, and by a *total and complete separation of the youth from the abandoned and depraved*, they endeavoured to prevent the fatal contagion of profligate discourse and vicious examples.

The advantages of this institution soon became apparent, for notwithstanding the extraordinary charges unavoidable at the commencement of such an undertaking, the expence of maintaining the poor of the united parishes the *first year*, was 193*l.* less than it had amounted to the year before, and 1259*l.* less than the average of the three years immediately preceding. Nor was this a temporary reduction *only*, for we are told that although a debt of 7000*l.* has since been contracted by the purchase of the buildings, the necessary alterations, furniture, &c. the interest of which debt forms a considerable article in the yearly expenditure, yet the poor's rates in these parishes continue to be lowered one third. This great and important object (the reduction of the poor's rates) has been obtained in a manner that while it reflects great honour on the projectors, is productive of the advancement of some of the best interests of society. Encouragements and rewards being held out to the poor who are allowed one sixth of their own earnings as a premium for their industry, they labour with pleasure, because

they labour *partly* for themselves, and are stimulated by the certainty of receiving two pence out of every shilling, to steady and uniform exertions in such employments as are adapted to their respective ages and capacities. The savings of the boys are generally reserved till they are put out apprentice, when the little sum belonging to each, is laid out in what may appear to be necessary. As to the girls, their gratuities are generally expended in the purchase of a plain, decent Sunday dress of a superior quality to the uniform of the house, and on that day they are seen attending on public worship, in neat camblet gowns, straw hats, &c. the produce of their own industry.

This excellent establishment at first laboured under great disadvantages, all of which have been overcome by the good sense and perseverance of the directors. There was no manufactory in the town of Shrewsbury in which the poor could be employed; it was therefore thought, that as to provide clothing for the number of paupers here collected, would of itself furnish work for a large portion of them, and as the first processes of the woollen manufacture were simple, and the knowledge of them easily acquired, this species of employment appeared to be most adequate to the circumstances and situation of the family here assembled. The necessary machines and implements, with a supply of the raw materials, were therefore procured, and persons versed in carding, and spinning wool, were hired to instruct the paupers. Weavers were likewise engaged, a shop with looms fitted up for their use, and a detached wing of the building divided into little habitations, and allotted for their accommodation.

But it is not the various branches of the woollen trade alone, that have been introduced, linen, shoes, and stockings are also fabricated within the house, for clothing its inhabitants; the surplus is sold, and the following comparative statement of the years 1788 and 1789, will convey an idea of the progressive improvement of this excellent institution, the order and regularity of which drew tears from the eyes of the philanthropic Howard, and the bare recital as written by Mr. Wood, must undoubtedly awaken the sensibility, and procure the approbation of every good man.

	1788.	1789.
Amount of goods sold,	590 4 9	682 18 5½
Stock in hand at the closing } of each year's account.	575 8 0½	696 7 4
	<hr/> £.1165 12 9½	<hr/> £.1379 5 9½

ART. XXVI. *Reflections on the general Utility of inland Navigation to the commercial and landed Interests of England; with Observations on the intended Canal from Birmingham to Worcester, and some Strictures upon the Opposition given to it, by the Proprietors of the Staffordshire Canal.* 8vo. 16 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Debrett. 1791.

THE author of these sensible and temperate Reflections fully elucidates the advantages likely to accrue from the new canal, and at the same time attempts to account for the interested opposition of those who have petitioned against it.

ART. XXVII. *Bills of Exchange. A full and correct Report of the great commercial Cause of Minet and Fec̄lor, versus Gibson and Johnson, decided in the House of Lords, on Monday the 14th of February, 1791: including the Speeches of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Kenyon, Lord Loughborough, the Lord Chief Baron, &c.* 118 pa. Pr. 2s. 6d. Walter. 1791.

THIS is one of the most important decisions, in respect to the commercial world, that has occurred for many years; and as property to the amount of more than a million sterling was involved in the consequences of this determination, it may be considered as one of the most momentous causes, that has ever been brought before a court of justice.

Livesey and Co. having drawn a bill of exchange on Gibson and Johnson, for 721l. 5s. dated Feb. 18, 1788, and payable at three months to *John White or order*, this bill was accepted by the defendants, and discounted by the plaintiffs, who, in the character of indorsees, for a full and valuable consideration, brought this action against the acceptors.

Mr. Bearcroft, as counsel for the plaintiffs, contended, that, notwithstanding the indorsement of this bill, purporting to be the indorsement of John White, *no such person existed*; that this bill was afterwards accepted by the defendants in this cause; and that, although they had accepted this bill, *they knew perfectly*, that no such person as John White existed. To prove this fact, several witnesses were called and examined.

In opposition to this, Mr. Erskine, on the part of the defendants, adduced evidence to prove that the *non-entity* of John White was entirely unknown to his clients.

After a short charge from Lord Kenyon, in which he asserted, 'that in bills of exchange, it is absolutely necessary that those persons in whose favour such bills are drawn, should indorse them; that this gives title to the bearers, and nothing should change this legal position;' his lordship left the question of fact to the jury, who having retired for about five minutes, found a verdict for the plaintiffs. Damages 721l. 5s.

On

On the 6th of November, 1789, Mr. Erskine moved the court of king's-bench for a new trial; and on the 16th of the same month, the counsel agreed on a special verdict. This special verdict was argued in the same court, in Michaelmas term, 1789, and the court thereupon gave judgment for the plaintiffs, upon the fifth count of the declaration, and for the defendants on the other counts.

Upon this judgment of the court of king's-bench, a writ of error was brought, returnable in parliament; and the plaintiffs in error having assigned general errors, and the defendants in error having pleaded that there was no error in the record of the proceedings, the said plaintiffs in error hoped that the said judgment would be reversed, &c. This case was accordingly argued at the bar of the Lords, by Messrs. Erskine and Bower, for Gibson and Johnson, the plaintiffs in error, and by Messrs. Bearcroft, Mingay, and Chambre, on the part of Minet and Fector, the defendants in error.—After the arguments of counsel, the Lord Chancellor, on the 26th of April, 1790, referred to the twelve judges three questions, which comprehended the whole merits of this important cause. On the 3d of February, 1791, the judges attended in the house of peers, for the purpose of delivering their opinions on this great commercial cause. On Monday, the 14th of February, 1791, this business came on again in the house of lords, when nine of the learned judges having declared themselves in support of the judgment of the court of king's-bench, and the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Baron, and Mr. Justice Heath, having given their opinion, that the judgment of that court should be reversed, the question was put, and the judgment of the court of king's-bench was affirmed, in deciding this to be a bill payable to bearer.

o.

ART. XXVIII. *Review of various Pamphlets and printed Papers, relative to the present Controversy among the English Catholics, &c.*

[Continued from Vol. VIII. p. 508.]

Nº II.

WE have already observed, that the form of *oath* inserted in the Appendix to the eighth volume of this Review, p. 506, was the source of the whole controversy, which now divides the English catholics; or, rather, which distinguishes the genuine English catholic from the bigotted papist. The first publick appearance of it, in Woodfall's *Diary*, excited in the north and west provinces a degree of theological fermentation, at this day hardly credible. The former of these *districts* (as they call them) had then for its bishop or vicar apostolic a Mr. Matthew Gibson, from the Papal College of Douay, full of all the transalpine prejudices, which seem to have been perpetuated in that

that seminary from its first existence *. The latter, or western district, was governed by a Benedictine monk of the name of *Walmfley*; and the same person, if our information be good, who about twenty years ago published, under the name of *Pastorini*, a curious rhapsody on the book of Revelation; which he calls *The General History of the Christian Church*. Neither of those good gentlemen, it seems, had been consulted by the committee, when the oath was framing. This they probably considered as derogatory from their episcopal character. It was not the committee, however, that framed the oath. It was drawn up, as is usual, by a celebrated lawyer, upon the principles of the protest and declaration abovementioned, [see Appendix, p. 503]. These both *Walmfley* and *Gibson* had signed: it was, therefore, reasonably expected by the committee that they would make no opposition to any oath conformable thereto: especially as the three clerical members, Bishop James Talbot, Bishop Charles Berington, and Dr. Joseph Wilks had given their full and deliberate approbation of it.

The committee were disappointed. The storm of opposition, raised in the north and west, flew on wings of wind to the capital; and some pragmatical—Dr. Woodward would call them *agitating* monks and friars, sounded in every corner the trumpet of zealotism; and endeavoured to make their blind votaries believe that there was death and damnation in the oath proposed. Feeling bold, with such auxiliaries, the two vicars hurried to town; and taking advantage of the good-nature of one of their colleagues, and of the dotage of another, they induced the latter to retract his approbation of the oath; and both to join with them in condemning it. This they formally did, by

An encyclical letter, addressed to all the faithful, both clergy and laity, in the four districts of England, &c. which letter, as it exhibits a most curious specimen of prelatic dogmatism, and will give our readers an idea of the despotic manner in which the Romish bishops treat their people, we will here literally insert, from a printed copy now before us.

‘ We think it necessary to notify to you, that, having held
‘ a meeting on the 19th of October, 1789, after mature delibera-
‘ tion and previous discussions, we unanimously condemned the new
‘ form of an oath, intended for the Catholics, published in Wood-
‘ fall’s Register, June 26, 1789, and declared it unlawful to be
‘ taken.—We also declared, that none of the faithful, clergy or
‘ laity, under our care, ought to take any new oath, or sign any
‘ new declaration, in doctrinal matters, or subscribe any new in-
‘ strument wherein the interests of religion are concerned, without
‘ the previous approbation of their respective bishop.

‘ These determinations we judged necessary, to the promoting of

* Hence our Camden, we think, calls its *alumni*, the Pope’s scholars.

On the 6th of November, 1789, Mr. Erskine moved the court of king's-bench for a new trial; and on the 16th of the same month, the counsel agreed on a special verdict. This special verdict was argued in the same court, in Michaelmas term, 1789, and the court thereupon gave judgment for the plaintiffs, upon the fifth count of the declaration, and for the defendants on the other counts.

Upon this judgment of the court of king's-bench, a writ of error was brought, returnable in parliament; and the plaintiffs in error having assigned general errors, and the defendants in error having pleaded that there was no error in the record of the proceedings, the said plaintiffs in error hoped that the said judgment would be reversed, &c. This case was accordingly argued at the bar of the Lords, by Messrs. Erskine and Bower, for Gibson and Johnson, the plaintiffs in error, and by Messrs. Bearcroft, Mingay, and Chambre, on the part of Minet and Fector, the defendants in error.—After the arguments of counsel, the Lord Chancellor, on the 26th of April, 1790, referred to the twelve judges three questions, which comprehended the whole merits of this important cause. On the 3d of February, 1791, the judges attended in the house of peers, for the purpose of delivering their opinions on this great commercial cause. On Monday, the 14th of February, 1791, this business came on again in the house of lords, when nine of the learned judges having declared themselves in support of the judgment of the court of king's-bench, and the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Baron, and Mr. Justice Heath, having given their opinion, that the judgment of that court should be reversed, the question was put, and the judgment of the court of king's-bench was affirmed, in deciding this to be a bill payable to bearer.

o.

ART. XXVIII. *Review of various Pamphlets and printed Papers, relative to the present Controversy among the English Catholics, &c.*

[Continued from Vol. VIII. p. 508.]

N^o II.

WE have already observed, that the form of *oath* inserted in the Appendix to the eighth volume of this Review, p. 506, was the source of the whole controversy, which now divides the English catholics; or, rather, which distinguishes the genuine English catholic from the bigotted papist. The first publick appearance of it, in Woodfall's *Diary*, excited in the north and west provinces a degree of theological fermentation, at this day hardly credible. The former of these *districts* (as they call them) had then for its bishop or vicar apostolic a Mr. Matthew Gibson, from the Papal College of Douay, full of all the transalpine prejudices, which seem to have been perpetuated in that

that seminary from its first existence *. The latter, or western district, was governed by a Benedictine monk of the name of *Walmsley*; and the same person, if our information be good, who about twenty years ago published, under the name of *Pastorini*, a curious rhapsody on the book of Revelation; which he calls *The General History of the Christian Church*. Neither of those good gentlemen, it seems, had been consulted by the committee, when the *oath* was framing. This they probably considered as derogatory from their episcopal character. It was not the committee, however, that framed the oath. It was drawn up, as is usual, by a celebrated lawyer, upon the principles of the protest and declaration abovementioned, [see Appendix, p. 503]. These both *Walmsley* and *Gibson* had signed: it was, therefore, reasonably expected by the committee that they would make no opposition to any oath conformable thereto: especially as the three clerical members, Bishop James Talbot, Bishop Charles Berington, and Dr. Joseph Wilks had given their full and deliberate approbation of it.

The committee were disappointed. The storm of opposition, raised in the north and west, flew on wings of wind to the capital; and some pragmatical—Dr. Woodward would call them *agitating* monks and friars, sounded in every corner the trumpet of zealotism; and endeavoured to make their blind votaries believe that there was death and damnation in the oath proposed. Feeling bold, with such auxiliaries, the two vicars hurried to town; and taking advantage of the good-nature of one of their colleagues, and of the dotage of another, they induced the latter to retract his approbation of the *oath*; and both to join with them in condemning it. This they formally did, by

An encyclical letter, addressed to all the faithful, both clergy and laity, in the four districts of England, &c. which letter, as it exhibits a most curious specimen of prelatic dogmatism, and will give our readers an idea of the despotic manner in which the Romish bishops treat their people, we will here literally insert, from a printed copy now before us.

‘ We think it necessary to notify to you, that, having held
‘ a meeting on the 19th of October, 1789, after mature delibera-
‘ tion and previous discussions, we unanimously condemned the new
‘ form of an oath, intended for the Catholics, published in Wood-
‘ fall’s Register, June 26, 1789, and declared it unlawful to be
‘ taken.—We also declared, that none of the faithful, clergy or
‘ laity, under our care, ought to take any new oath, or sign any
‘ new declaration, in doctrinal matters, or subscribe any new in-
‘ strument wherein the interests of religion are concerned, without
‘ the previous approbation of their respective bishop.

‘ These determinations we judged necessary, to the promoting of

* Hence our Camden, we think, calls its *alumni*, the Pope’s scholars.

‘ your spiritual welfare, to fix an anchor for you to hold to, and to
 ‘ restore peace to your minds.—To these determinations therefore
 ‘ we require your submission.’

Hammer Smith, Oct. 21, 1789.

+ Charles Ramaten, V. A.
 + James BIRTHAN, V. A.
 + Thomas Aconen, V. A.
 + Matthew Comanen, V. A.

As many of our readers will be at a loss to know who are the persons designed by the above signatures, we must inform them, that, ever since the Reformation, it has been customary with the See of Rome to give to its *vicars*, in England and other heretical countries *, the titles of antient extinct bishoprics; and, hence, they are usually denominated Bishops in *partibus Infidelium*. Thus Smith, the first *vicar apostolic* in England, was, forsooth, bishop of *Chalcedon*: and the four who sign the above *encyclical letter* are, Charles Walmsley, bishop of *Rama*; James Talbot, bishop of *Birtha*; Thomas Talbot, bishop of *Acone*; and Matthew Gibson, bishop of *Comana*. All these bishoprics are in *Asia*: but their respective bishops are, by his holiness, disengaged from residence until their *flocks* be converted to Christianity.

The committee were not a little alarmed at this unexpected conduct of the vicars apostolic; and used their most strenuous endeavours to prevent the publication of the *encyclical* †. For that purpose they wrote *two* letters: the one addressed to the body of English catholics at large, and the other to the four bishops; they were printed together, by Coghlan, in a quarto pamphlet of eleven close pages, and known, among the opposite party, by the name of *The Blue Book*.

The former of these *letters* is said to have been written by Mr. Butler, of Lincoln's-Inn, secretary to the committee. Whoever be the writer, it is certainly a well-written letter. After a neat, and, we believe, very accurate statement of the whole procedure of the committee, in respect to the matter in question, from the beginning of the year 1788, to the period in which the heads of the *bill* were first published, he proceeds to lay before his readers the principles upon which it is founded; and to answer, minutely, the frivolous objections which had been made to it by the ignorant and illiberal of his own communion. This he does, we think, in a very satisfactory manner—we mean, that he has left to his *popish* antagonists no room for a

* Ireland excepted, in which the Romish bishops still assume the same titles as before the Reformation.

† We have been assured that it was never published either in the London or middle district, owing, partly, to the death of bishop James Talbot, and, partly, to the laudable moderation of his brother, bishop Thomas Talbot.

rational reply: for we are far from approving all his doctrine. For instance, one objection to the *oath* is, that the taker of it is made to assert, *that no ecclesiastical power whatever can dispense with any oath or compact*. The answer given to this is, first, 'that the *oath* or *compact* referred to, must be of itself a lawful oath or compact; secondly, that *vows*, or other *promises* made to God, and which do not affect the rights of third persons, are here out of the question.' From this second answer it should seem, that the author allows the *Pope* a power of dispensing from the obligation of such *vows* and *promises*.—Now, to us, this appears a strange, and even pernicious doctrine, although we are pretty certain that its pernicious tendency was not perceived by the writer. If any *vow* or *promise*, made either to *God* or *man*, be of itself evidently unlawful, there is no need of a dispensation to break it: if it be evidently lawful, and of importance, no power can dispense with it; if it be of a dubious or frivolous nature, its obligation must be determined by the conscience of him who made it; but, still, no earthly power has any thing to do in the matter. Between *conscience* and *God*, no *pope* nor *potentate* has any right to interfere.

One objection made to the *oath* is so truly ridiculous that we cannot help reciting it. 'The doctrine that princes, excommunicated by the pope, &c. may be deposed by their subjects, is called *heretical*!' The objectors to this epithet are willing to call the doctrine in question, a *false, seditious, traiterous, damnable* doctrine: but they will not call it *heretical*—why? 'because it has never yet been defined to be *heresy* by the church:' i. e. by the church of Rome. We, poor simple protestants, should have thought it sufficient that it was contrary to the *gospel*, and to (what was prior to the *gospel*) *reason*. Such an objection deserved to be treated with silent contempt, but our letter-writer, more complaisant, gives it a direct answer in their own scholastic dialect; and shews them, that they are as ignorant in *orthodox* divinity as in *sound* reasoning.

The other letter, addressed to the bishops, is publickly ascribed to Dr. Wilks of Bath. It is a concise, elegant composition, as our readers will perceive by the following passage, which equally evinces the clear head and the candid heart.

'My Lords, (says he, addressing himself to the vicars apostolic), it is not without pain and sorrow, that we recollect, that if the catholics of England have often been oppressed and punished for a conscientious adherence to the faith of their church; they have sometimes, also, suffered from an imprudent interference of ecclesiastical authority in civil concerns. After the infernal horrors of the gun-powder treason, James I. was strongly excited, by the clamors of a terrified nation, to exterminate the race of English catholics; but James was tolerant and just; he declared

he would never confound the innocent *multitude* with the guilty *few*; and, in order to pacify an enraged people, and shelter from destruction the devoted victims, he drew up, himself, a *TEST*, by which he might discriminate the *legal* and *conscientious* catholic from the dangerous bigot, who was actuated by fanatic zeal, or driven from his duty by the predominancy of foreign politics. He proposed an oath of allegiance, in which, with elaborate care and nicest exactness, he separated *spiritual* from *temporal* concerns. He left to conscience all its rights in matters of salvation, and only required a solemn protestation of fidelity to the government of the state. His catholic subjects presented themselves, with ardor, to give their pledge of fealty; exulting in an opportunity to reconcile, at length, their political and their religious obligations. Their joy was short. Paul V. who then sat in the papal chair, salminated a condemnation of this political oath. The extravagance of Paul's condemnation raised amazement, and his *breves* were treated, by the English catholics, as spurious; but they were not long permitted to indulge their error; another, and another *breve* succeeded to confirm the first; and, by some unaccountable blunder, an oath of political allegiance was confounded, with an oath against acknowledging any spiritual primacy in the successor of St. Peter*!

Our author then answers some objections, (the same with those answered in the former letter), and concludes thus:

'My lords! we have laid, with respect, our proceedings before you. The protestation, the petition, the bill, uniformly rest on the single principle, that the English catholics reject every pernicious doctrine imputed to them; and, that while they claim the right of following their conscience in religious matters, they can give to government and the nation every security of being honest men and peaceable subjects. Upon this single principle we look, with well-founded hopes, for relief; and we have a firm reliance that your lordships will co-operate with us in effectuating so desirable a purpose.'

Both these letters are signed by seven of the committee; namely, by two clergymen, bishop Charles Berington and Dr. Joseph Wilks; and by five laymen, Lord Petre, John Throckmorton, William Fermor, John Townely, and Thomas Hornyold, esquires.

While the committee thus crouch, as it were, before their bishops, and beg leave to remonstrate, a bolder individual steps forth, and attacks their *encyclical* letter in a very different manner, in a

* All this is perfectly just, but still a question occurs;—why did the English catholics pay any regard to the reiterated *breves* of Paul? unless from the idea of his *infallibility*? We therefore repeat it, and we wish to have it known, that no *state*, whether *protestant* or *catholic*, can rationally confer any office of trust on any one who believes the pope's *infallibility*. Mere *toleration* is a different thing.

Letter to the Vicars Apostolic in England. By a Catholic Layman. Small 8vo. 15 pages. Price 6d. Coghlan. 1790.

This spirited address appears to be written by a masterly hand; and the most pointed arguments and sarcasms, rational as they are forcible, place the bigots of the Romish persuasion in no very respectable light, considered as men or christians.

In a strain of nervous expostulation and overpowering ridicule, this layman twists, to borrow a vulgar expressive phrase, their lordships round his finger, without descending to any jesuitical wresting of words, or to the little arts used by those sophistical reasoners who labour to make the worse appear the better part. It would be vain to attempt to give an analysis of arguments, that are linked together with an interesting warmth, by a person who seems to have sifted to the bottom a subject which he treats with the earnestness of conviction; however, the purport of the letter is, to shew that the innocent oath, which their lordships have made such a bug-bear of, is a civil oath; that it would take off the odium thrown on the catholics; and, that it only disavows doctrines which they are eager to disavow as immoral and unchristian. Who can raise any objection against such catholic sentiments? who will venture to say that such a description of men are not good subjects and moral neighbours? More is not required of citizens; the jurisdiction of the heart is left to the searcher of hearts. But it is scarcely to be expected that the reasonable arguments contained in this letter, will have much weight with the persons addressed. The age is not sufficiently enlightened to give us any ground to suppose, that inveterate papistical prejudices will soon be rooted out; yet, it is some encouragement to observe, that rational men, of all persuasions, are labouring to settle religion on the foundation of reason. As a specimen of the style, we will give a part of the conclusion, and so conclude this number.

But what am I (your lordships may possibly ask) who thus presume to address my *spiritual superiors*, and to arraign their conduct? I will give your lordships an answer—I am a BRITON, my lords, enamoured of the constitution of his country, and ardently desirous of sharing in the freedom and privileges of his fellow citizens, from which the obstinate bigotry of your predecessors, and their unlawful attachment to a foreign power, have so long excluded him; and which ye, my lords, are doing all that lies in your power to prevent him from ever enjoying. I am a CATHOLIC, my lords, enamoured of his religion, and bursting with indignation at the prospect of her becoming the general butt of the raillery of every pulpit declaimer and controversial scribbler. Finally, my lords, I am a RATIONAL BEING, who thinks for himself; who has examined the evidences of revealed religion, and traced its principles to their sources; who has searched the *scriptures*, perused the *Fathers*, compared the *councils*, and who believes, with honest Vincent
of

Lerins, that nothing can be an essential PRINCIPLE OF FAITH, or necessary TERM of communion; but, QUOD SEMPER, QUOD AB OMNIBUS, QUOD UBIQUE CREDITUM. This, my lords, I take to be a much safer ANCHOR than that which your lordships hold forth to us.

‘As to my profession, my lords, that is of no importance. A bookseller or trunk-maker may, occasionally, be found with as much sense, and even as much learning, as a bishop or cardinal. Science is acquired by talents, labour and opportunity; and none of these, my lords, have been to me entirely wanting. Ye see I can reason and write; I must, consequently, have read and studied. I had, in truth, my lords, a regular education. My father intended me for the church, and I was actually once an *acolyte*!

‘If, again, your lordships ask why I have written in this particular style, and sometimes blended irony with argument? verily, my lords, it was because the subject would hardly bear any other mode of writing. Your *encyclical letter*, my lords, is too ridiculous and extravagant to be altogether seriously combated. Besides, I had heard that to the very serious and very sensible remonstrances of OUR COMMITTEE your lordships paid but little attention; I flatter myself, ye will pay more attention to this LAYMAN’S LETTER, were it only for the purpose of censuring it. I wait your lordship’s decisions without concern or apprehension, and feel myself in the predicament of a counsellor of old—“Strike,” my lords, “but listen to my advice.”

(To be continued.)

ART. XXIX. *An Enquiry into the Origin, Divine Authority, and Expediency of Civil Establishments of Religion in general, and of Christianity in particular.* 8vo. 56 pages. Price 1s. 6d. Johnson. 1791.

THE sum of this Enquiry may be thus briefly stated: Civil Establishments in Religion are of great antiquity, and have almost universally prevailed. Hence has arisen a strong prejudice in their favour, which should induce those who disapprove of civil establishments of religion, to treat the advocates for them with candour. The antiquity and universality of the practice is, however, no proof of its divine origin, or its utility. The idea of a national establishment is not suggested or encouraged by a single passage in the New Testament; and the practice is discountenanced, if not absolutely prohibited, by several declarations of Christ and his Apostles. Civil establishments of religion cannot be defended on the ground of expediency: for by authoritatively prescribing certain tenets and forms, they interfere with the right of private judgment. It is an act of oppression and injustice to oblige men to contribute to the maintenance and propagation of opinions which they judge to be false, and institutions which they do not approve. Such establishments have a tendency to obstruct the progress of truth and virtue, by discouraging free enquiry, enticing,

ting improper persons into the clerical office, and throwing the whole weight of political influence into the scale of improvement; and they are subversive of civil liberty, and the common rights of mankind. The piece is written with perspicuity, and breathes a candid spirit. We shall select the following passage. P. 34.

‘ Truth and purity are not the objects, upon the attainment of which the mind of the politician is fixed. He has other ends in view; and whatever promotes these ends he readily embraces and firmly maintains. The influence of religion itself is only borrowed as an aid to the execution of the most unworthy purposes.

‘ But admitting, that the civil governor is in earnest in religion, yet from his elevated rank and mode of education he must be ill qualified for forming just notions of its principles. He is exposed to error and imposture, and his religion will most probably be that of superstition and fanaticism,—the religion of all ill-tutored minds, and that, which alone can accommodate itself to worldly ones. Thus he becomes himself the tool of shrewder politicians, and of crafty priests; and his very zeal is fatal to the truth and purity of such a religion, as that of the New Testament.

‘ When an alliance is once formed and established between the interests of the state and what alone the civil magistrate is pleased to distinguish by the name of religion, he rudely shuts the door to free enquiry, and compels all to enter the temple, which he has consecrated, and to worship the idol which he has erected. He determines for all posterity the measure of truth, and arrogantly presumes to forbid all further examination.

‘ Nor is it necessary for supporting the errors and corruptions of a religious establishment, that the same kind of persecution should be employed, which savage Rome practised. Exclusive favour is a more refined policy, acts with less odium, occasions less resistance, and is more fatally successful. The multitude, if not too harshly commanded, are sure to pass into the religion of the state, while the stimulus of honours and rewards, which are in no other way to be obtained, makes many apostates from the cause of truth, and hourly thins the ranks of her virtuous adherents. Nor is this proneness to the religion of the state, whatever this religion be, to be counteracted but by the follies and mischiefs, which spring out of unprincipled policy, however artfully conducted, and by the efforts of great and extraordinary characters, whom divine providence is pleased in mercy to oppose to the mistaken or wicked policies of this world. Without the operation of these correctives, the very idea of truth, considered as the truth of nature and of God, passes into general oblivion; its friends are discountenanced, oppressed, and persecuted; and though better sentiments of religion may not be wholly extinguished, yet the bulk of the nation is consigned to error, and the means of recovery are diminished by the ignorance, stupor, and obstinacy, which are the wretched progeny of a state-religion.

ART. XXX. *A View of the External Evidence of the Christian Religion.* By the Rev. James L. Moore, Master of the Grammar School in Hertford, Herts. Foolscap 8vo. 132 pages. Price 2s. 6d. sewed. Rivingtons. 1791.

THE proofs of the divine authority of the Christian Religion arising from the miracles and the resurrection of Christ; from his perfect moral character, from the prophecies which have been fulfilled in him and his church, and from the rapid progress which christianity, at its first appearance, made in the world, notwithstanding every possible discouragement, are here stated in a manner well adapted to the comprehension of those who have not leisure for more elaborate researches. If the writer has advanced nothing new upon the subject, and is less systematical in the arrangement of his arguments than many former writers, he has the merit of having given an easy and popular view of that branch of the evidence of christianity, which is derived from the historical attestation of supernatural events.

ART. XXXI. *Prayers for the Use of Families.* By Benjamin Kingsbury. 8vo. 122 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Birmingham, Thompson. London, Johnson. 1790.

THOSE who esteem family worship a part of religious duty, and whose habits lead them to think a variety of forms of devotion a desirable circumstance, will have pleasure in being informed, that another valuable addition is made to the public stock of family prayers. The leading characters of the prayers contained in this volume, are seriousness without fanaticism, and simplicity without insipidity. The sentiments expressed in them are of that general kind, which may, without scruple, be adopted by christians of all religious persuasions. They are free from that affected display of elegance, or parade of passion, which, however captivating on the first perusal, must always become disgusting upon frequent repetition. The general cast of the work is nearly the same with that of Enfield's and Palmer's family prayers, and may very properly be used in rotation with them. As great correctness and propriety are particularly desirable in prayers which are to be frequently repeated, we shall point out to the author a few expressions, which he may possibly think it right to alter in a subsequent edition.

P. 8. thy goodness has not been confined to the *bestowment*, &c. P. 16. served thee in our *day and generation*. P. 17. *creatures of thy formation*. P. 29. allowing *those* sentiments. P. 39. thou art an *assemblage*. P. 42. *darling* attribute. P. 65. May our *great* men be *good* men. P. 74. who *inhabiteth*. P. 81. image of *Deity*. P. 32. do not thou forget to bestow.

This latter expression is of true puritanical origin. During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. lord Astley, before he charged at the battle of Edge-hill, made this short prayer, 'O Lord, thou knowest how busy I must be this day: if I forget thee, do not thou forget me.' *

To the course of prayers for a week are added, Prayers and Thanksgivings for particular Occasions, and Prayers on the Divine Attributes, and on the Christian Religion.

ART. XXXII. *Evangelical Motives to Holiness: or an Attempt to shew that those who cannot rely on Good Works, feel most powerful Engagements to abound in them.* By Joseph Cornish. 12mo. 24 pages. Price 6d. Taunton, Norris. London, Robinsons. 1790.

IN this piece it is maintained, that faith in the doctrine of Calvinism is not inconsistent with zeal for holiness. It is a happy circumstance attending the multiplicity of religious opinions, which, indeed, proves theological controversy to be of less importance than is commonly supposed, that their respective professors generally agree in acknowledging the universal and immutable obligation of morality.

ART. XXXIII. *Youth reminded of a Future Judgment: In a funeral Discourse, occasioned by the Death of Mr. John Vowell, who died at Hackney, December 24, 1790, in the 22d Year of his Age: To which is added, Some Account of Miss Sophia Vowell, his Sister, who died on the Seventh of the same Month, in the 16th Year of her Age.* By William Bennet. 8vo. 52 pages. Price 1s. Dilly. 1791.

A SERIOUS discourse on an important practical subject, but not without a strong tincture of polemic theology. Speaking of the person at whose funeral the discourse was delivered, the writer says, 'He was taught the glory of the person of Christ, as God-man, and the importance of this, in order to his all-sufficiency as a Saviour. For, when I asked him, in conversation, about the object of faith, what he thought of their sentiments who affirm Jesus Christ to be a mere man like ourselves? Without hesitation he replied, 'I am fully settled as to that point. I have conversed with such, and read some of their writings; but, if Jesus Christ were nothing more than a creature, he could not be my Saviour, nor durst I commit my eternal all into his hands.'

ART. XXXIV. *The Spirit of all Religions.* Crown 8vo. 50 pages. Price 2s. 6d. Amsterdam. Hookham. 1790.

A a 2

THE

* Hume.

THE subjects here touched upon are, the incomprehensibility of the divine nature; the eternity and necessary imperfection of matter; the existence of inferior deities and genii; the moral instincts of man; and the immortality of the soul. The writer delivers his dogmas with oracular sententiousness, but advances nothing which merits particular notice.

ART. XXXV. *Antinomianism Unmasked and Refuted; and the Moral Law proved from the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, to be still in full Force as the Rule of the Christian's Conduct.* By Maria De Fleury. 8vo. 69 pages. Price 1s. Wilkins. 1791.

THIS zealous lady takes her station in the midway between Arminianism and Antinomianism, and endeavours to establish the true point of orthodoxy, to which she devoutly wishes to bring all mankind. From her manner of writing upon the subject, we see some reason to suspect, that her knowledge is not exactly proportioned to her zeal.

ART. XXXVI. *The Barber's Mirror; or a Portrait of the Rev. William Huntington, drawn from real Life; being Remarks on that Gentleman's Pamphlet, entitled, 'The Barber: with an Account of his strange and deplorable Frenzy. In a Letter to a Friend* 12mo. 48 pages. Price 6d. Chalmers. 1791.

MORE pains than the occasion required, or than was perhaps necessary, is here taken to prove *the Barber* insane. The writer's talents, which are by no means despicable, might have been better employed.

M. D.

ART. XXXVII. *The School for Arrogance: a Comedy. As it is acted at the Theatre-Royal, Covent-Garden.* By Thomas Holcroft. 8vo. 103 pa. Pr. 1s. 6d. Robinsons. 1791.

THE *School for Arrogance* has been formed on the basis of a French comedy (*Le Glorieux*) by M. Nericault Desfouches, the preface informs us; but as we have not seen the original, we are unable to form any judgment concerning the alterations and additions to which the author alludes, unless it is to applaud the skilful introduction of two of the best drawn characters in the piece.

We have not lately met with a comedy that deserves to rank with the *School for Arrogance*; yet we shall not attempt to sketch the plot; it is sufficient to observe, that some originality of character, humorously depicted, render many scenes interesting, in which we marked inconsistencies, or the hard line of a cari-

caricaturing pencil. The following scene will serve as a specimen. P. 31.

Mac D. If—I might be so bould—

Count. Well, Sir—

Mac D. A letter for your lordship.

Count. Oh!—What from the ambassador?

Mac D. No faith, my lord.

Count. Ha! The duchess?

Mac D. No, my lord, nor the duchess, neither.

Count. [Taking it] Who then, Sir?

Mac D. Faith, my lord, that is more than I can say—but perhaps the letter itself can tell you.

Count. Sir!—Who brought it?

Pic. *Un pauvre valet* footaman, mee lor—His shoe, his stocking, his habit, his chapeau, vas all patch and piece. And he vas—

Mac D. [Aside, interrupting him] Bo!

Count. [Throwing down the letter, blowing his fingers, and dusting them with his white handkerchief] Foh!—Open it, and inform me of the contents.

Mac D. Yes, my lord.

Pic. His visage, mee lor—

Count. How now!

Pic. [In a pitiful tone] Mee lor—

Mac D. 'Sblood, man—! [Stopping his mouth, and pushing him back.]

Count. [Makes signs to the footmen, who bring an arm-chair forward, and again submissively retire] She is ever uppermost! I cannot banish her my thoughts! Do you hear?—Dismiss those—[Waving his hand.]

Mac D. Yes, my lord.—Hark you spalpeens! [Waving his hand with the same air as the Count.] [Exit footmen.]

Pic. [Advancing] *Monsieur le Comte*—

Count. [After a stare] Again!

Pic. I have von requête to beg—

Count. Pay that fellow his wages immediately!

Mac D. I tould you so! [Pushing him away] Hush! Silence!

Pic. Silence! I am no English! I hate silence! I—

Mac D. Poh! Bodtheration! Be asy!—I will try now to make your pace! [Pushes him off, and then returns to examining the letter.]

Count. Insolent menial!—Well, Sir? The contents?

Mac D. Faith, my lord, I am afraid the contents will not please you!

Count. How so, Sir?

Mac D. Why, as for the how so, my lord, if your lordship will but be pleased to rade—

Count. Didn't I order you to read?

Mac D. To be sure you did, my lord; but I should take it as a very particular grate favour, if that your lordship would but be pleased to rade for yourself.

Count. Why, Sir?

Mac D. Your lordship's timper is a little warm; and—

Count. Read!

Mac.

Mac D. Well—If I must I must!—‘The person who thinks proper, at present, to address you’—

Count. *[Interrupting]* Sir!

Mac D. My lord!

Count. Be pleased to *begin* the letter, Sir!

Mac D. Begin? Sarra the word of beginning is here—before or after—

Count. ‘The person’?

Mac D. Yes, my lord,

Count. Mighty odd! *[Throws himself in the arm-chair]* Proceed, Sir.

Mac D. ‘The person who thinks proper, at present to address you, takes the liberty to inform you that your haughtiness, instead of being dignified, is ridiculous.’

Count. *[Starting up]* Sir!

Mac D. Why now, I tould your lordship!

Count. *[Traversing the stage.]* Go on!

Mac D. *[With hesitating fear.]* ‘The little—merit—you have’—

Count. *[With a look]* The little merit I have? The little?—The little?—*[Mac Dermot holds up the letter.]*—Go on!

Mac D. ‘The little merit you have—cannot convince the world that your pride—is not—is not—is not—’

Count. Is not what? *[Sternly.]*

Mac D. *[Fearful]* ‘Impertinent,’

Count. *[Striking Mac Dermot.]* Rascal!

Mac D. Viry well, my lord!—*[Throwing down the letter]* I humbly thank your lordship!—By Jafus! But I’ll remember the favour—

Count. *[More coolly]* Read, Sir.

Mac D. To the divle I pitch me if I do!

Count. *[Conscious of having done wrong]* Read, Mac Dermot.

Mac D. No, my lord!—Mac Dermot is a man!—An Englishman!—Or an Irishman, by Jafus, which is better still! And by the holy poker, if but that your lordship was not a lord now!—*[Pulling down his sleeves, and clenching his fist with great agony.]*

Count. *[Carelessly letting his purse fall]* Pick up that purse, Mac Dermot.

Mac D. ‘Tis viry well!—Oh!—Well!—Well!—Well! *[Lays the purse on the table.]*

Count. You may keep it—Mac Dermot.

Mac D. What!—I touch it!—No, my lord!—Don’t you think it!—I despise your guineas!—An Irishman is not to be paid for a blow!

Count. *[With increasing consciousness of error, and struggling with his feelings]*—I—I—have been hasty—

Mac D. Well, well!—‘Tis viry well!

Count. I am—I—I am sorry, Mac Dermot.

Mac D. *[Softened]* My lord!

Count. *[Emphatically]* Very sorry—

Mac D. My lord!

Count. Pray forget it! *[Taking him by the hand]* I cannot forgive myself.

Mac.

Mac D. By the blessed Mary, then, but I can.—Your lordship is a noble gentleman!—There is many an upstart lord has the courage to strike, whin they know their poor starving depindants hands are chained to their sides, by wretchedness and oppression: but few indeed have the courage to own the injury!

Count. I will remember, Mac Dermot, that I am in your debt.

Mac D. Faith, and if you do, my lord, your mimory will be better than mine!—I have lived with your lordship some years; and, though not always a kind, you have always been a ginerous master. To be sure, I niver before had the honour of a blow from your lordship; but then I niver before had the satisfaction to be quite sure that, while you remimbered yourself to be a lord, you had not forgotten poor Mac Dermot was a man.

Count. Well, well! [*Aside, and his pride returning*] He thinks he has a licence now to prate.—There is no teaching servants; nay indeed there is no teaching any body a sense of propriety!

Mac D. Did your lordship spake? [*Bowing kindly.*]

Count. Give me that letter. And—take the money—It is yours.

Mac D. Your lordship will be plased for to pardon me there.—If you think proper, you may give me twice as much to-morrow.—But the divle a doit I'll touch for to-day!

Count. Wait within call.

Mac D. [*Going*] I niver before knew he was all togedther such a jewel of a master! [*Exit.*]

ART. XXXVIII. *The Widow of Malabar. A Tragedy, in Three Acts, as it is performed at the Theatre, Covent-Garden* By Mariana Starke. 8vo. 47 pa. Pr. 1s. 6d. Lane. 1791.

THIS is another imitation from the French; and many of the scenes must have a striking stage effect; but in the closter, the interest which it excites is not sufficiently warm to extort praise, though it may soften censure. M.

ART. XXXIX. *A concise Statement of Transactions and Circumstances respecting the King's Theatre in the Haymarket.* By Mr. Taylor, the Proprietor. Together with the official Correspondence upon the same Subject, between the Right Hon. the Lord Chamberlain and Earl Cholmondeley, &c. 46 p. pr. 1s. Debrett. 1791.

MR. TAYLOR, in this pamphlet, states, that the establishment of the Opera House for more than 80 years, the recognition of it by the legislature, and the circumstance of its having been erected on premises leased from the crown, for the express purpose of a theatre, the invariable protection of the crown, had induced him to purchase this property from an idea that there was an absolute certainty of an exclusive licence.

He complains of the cruel advantage that has been taken of the fire, by which this building was consumed in June, 1789, and trusts, that as the theatre is now completely finished, on a plan of magnificence and accommodation, which will challenge

lenge a comparison with any one in Europe, that it will not remain 'a splendid monument of unexampled oppression!'

ART. XLI. *Prophecies delivered by a Descendant from the Oracle of Delphos, of the future Lives and Deaths of the following distinguished Personages, &c.* 4to. 56 pages, price 2s. 6d. Priest. 1791.

SATIRE may prove a wholesome corrective when dealt out with a discriminating and masterly hand, but when applied, as in the present instance, for the purposes of general censure, and indiscriminate abuse, it can only excite our contempt.

ART. XLI. *Memoirs of Antonina, Queen of Abo, displaying her private Intrigues and uncommon Passions. With Family Sketches and curious Anecdotes of Great Persons.* Translated from the French. 2 vols. bound in one. 12mo. 161 p. pr. 2s. 6d. sewed. Bently. 1791.

No task is more painful than that of condemning either the original works or translations of other men; we are, however, reluctantly forced to declare, that this is a vile catchpenny production, replete with gross abuse against a distinguished personage on the Continent, and equally offensive to delicacy and morality.

O.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Correspondent from Suffolk, who signs himself O. P. accuses us of an impropriety in having noticed Dr. Hamilton's Practical Hints on Opium, which was reviewed in Vol. VIII. p. 38. because he says the pamphlet was not advertised in the London papers, nor intended for sale, but only for circulation in his own neighbourhood. We were altogether ignorant of this, for the title page expressly declares that the pamphlet is *to be sold*, which we are persuaded is a manifest and absolute publication, and as such, fully justifies the admission of it into our Journal. Our practice has, however, we are free to acknowledge, extended still further than this, for we have reviewed several articles, which have not, in any way, been exposed to sale, as we even think the circumstance of being printed and distributed, subjects a book to public opinion.

With respect to our criticism on the pamphlet which the writer is dissatisfied with, we see nothing in the letter to make us think it an improper one, and if he will consult the reports of the Humane Society, he will perhaps be convinced that the use of the hollow bougie, and the application of electricity, which he seems to think originally suggested by Dr. Hamilton, have been resorted to in other cases of suspended animation. We can further assure Dr. Hamilton, that in our review of the pamphlet, as we trust has been, and ever will be, the case with every other article, we were not in the smallest degree influenced either by prejudice or partiality. We think it right to add, that we shall ever pay attention to letters written with so much candor as the present is, and that nothing but its extraordinary length prevented our inserting it.

LITERARY

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

HISTORY OF ACADEMIES.

ART. I. ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, AT GOTTINGEN.

The following questions were proposed by the Academy at the last November meeting.

1. For November, 1791. It has hitherto been admitted, that the resistance to a plane moved obliquely through a resisting medium is as the square of the sine of inclination. In France it has been found by experiment, that this rule is not just, and that the greater the obliquity the greater its deviation from the truth: but for the proportion betwixt the angle and the resistance Mr. Bossuet has given an approximation which is not applicable to curved surfaces. The experiments, too, were made in water only: yet it may be presumed, that the resistance of air differs from that of water, not merely on account of its greater rarity, but also of its elasticity. Analysis, therefore, requires much from mathematics, before it can substitute a true theory of projectiles instead of the parabolic. It is demanded, then: *In oblique resistances, what proportion does the resistance bear to the angle of inclination? and how may the resistance to curved surfaces be found?*

2. For November 1792. *The best explanation of every thing which Trajan did, or directed, in his campaigns and expeditions along the Danube; not only from historians and geographers, but from ancient monuments.*

3. For November 1793. *To examine and demonstrate by careful and accurate experiments, the difference between the cystic and hepatic bile, with respect to their component parts, and mode of mixture: whether the bile of mammalia be similar to that of birds, amphibia, and fishes; that of carnivorous, to that of graminivorous and omnivorous animals; and that of ruminating animals, to that of those which do not ruminate: whether it be not this which occasions the difference of its component parts: what inferences may thence be drawn of the uses of the bile in the animal body, and its salutary powers: and what cautions are to be taken in applying to the human frame experiments made with the bile of other animals.*

The prize for each is 50 duc. [22l. 10s.] Also:

4. For July 1791. *What is the reason, that ornaments of public buildings, bridges, railings, monuments, mile-stones, trees and banks of walks, &c. are defaced out of mere malice more frequently in Germany, or in many parts of it at least, than in Italy and other countries? and how may this apparently national viciousness be most securely and speedily eradicated?*

5. For November 1791. *What is the least expensive mode of enclosing towns, that have neither walls nor dikes, so that no one can go in or out unperceived?*

6. For July 1792. *Would it be advantageous in Lower Saxony to substitute earthen pipes for those of wood, in which the water is conveyed under the pavement of the streets of some towns? and what would be the difference of expence in laying them down, and keeping them in repair?*

7. For November 1792. *How, or under what circumstances, may various ensurance-offices be detrimental to a state? and how may their being so be most securely provided against?*

The prizes for each of these is 12 duc. [5l. 8s.] The papers in answer to the questions for November must be sent before the end of the month of September preceding; and to those for July, before the end of the preceding May.

ART. II. ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND BELLES LETTRES,
AT BERLIN.

Sept. 30. At this meeting no prize was adjudged, as no satisfactory paper was sent in answer to either of the questions: at the same time the following new ones were proposed.

1. *What has been the real progress of metaphysics in Germany since the time of Leibnitz and Wolff?*

2. *To compare the principal dead and living languages of Europe, with respect to their copiousness, regularity, force, harmony, and other advantages of which a language is susceptible.—To show in what each is superior or inferior to the rest, and to point out the reasons.—To determine those, which, by the most advantageous combination of these different qualities, seem nearest to approach that perfection which human language is capable of attaining.*

The papers on each must be sent before the end of January, 1792.

At this meeting count de Hertzberg read a discourse on the political events of the year, comparing the tranquillity enjoyed by the Prussian dominions with the commotions of others. Ab. Denina read a paper on the question: Whether the Germans have equalled the English in the arts and sciences, or whether it may be presumed, that they will equal them? Mr. Erman began an historical eulogy of Charlotta Sophia, wife of Frederic I. Mr. Bursa read a dissertation on the arenarium of Archimedes. And Mr. Klein, an examination of the influence of philosophy on public affairs.

ART. III. ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, OF PARIS.

Dec. 20. The prize of 600 l. [25l.] for the question respecting the decay of forests, and the means of remedying it, was divided between Mr. J. F. Baillon, of Montreuil-sur-mer, and Mr. Demonceet. To one of the questions proposed for this year [see our Rev. Vol. VI. p. 354. N° 1.] no satisfactory answer was received: with respect to the other [ib. N° 2.] the society defers awarding the prize, until it has had time for putting to the test of experiment the processes offered.

Gold medals were bestowed on Mr. Bouchard, of Veynard near Mortefontaine, for having founded a prize in favour of parents who should send their children to the public schools of their district, the education of the poor appearing to him greatly neglected: to Mr. Juge, of Limoges, for having planted extensive nurseries of trees, which were much wanted there: to Mr. Dousson, for having drained two thousand acres of salt marsh, and preserved them from the inundations of the sea by dikes: to Mr. Guerre, for the cultivation of some barren lands near Paris: to Mr. Varenne, formerly de Fenille, for agricultural improvements: to Mr. Dralet, for making considerable plantations of wood in a country where but little grew, promoting the cultivation of potatoes, &c.: to Mr. Tranchon, of Fosse Martin near Meaux, for having sold his grain at a low price when a great
dearth

dearth was threatened: to Mr. *Hervé-Broustail*, of Morlaix, for extensive plantations of wood, which was become extremely scarce: to the eldest daughter of Mr. *Premier*, of Chatelleraut, who for some years has taught the children of the neighbourhood to spin cotton, and furnished employment for several weavers: to Mr. *Gallot*, formerly of *Lorinerie*, for having promoted the cultivation of potatoes in sandy lands near the sea-shore: to Mr. *Cochereau*, of Chateau-du-Loir, for agricultural improvements: to Dr. G. *Ostertag*, jun. of Strasburg, who has saved the lives of many peasants by his disinterested care of them in epidemic diseases, and has for several years instructed country midwives in their art *gratis*: to Mr. *Amable-Antoine Bonnefoy*, of Thiers, for his zeal in agriculture: and to Mr. *J. Jasmin*, a free negro of St. Domingo. Mr. *Jasmin*, who is now fourscore, has established an hospital, where he has for thirty-five years employed himself, his wife, and twelve slaves, in succouring people of colour labouring under want or disease. A small estate has furnished him with the means of supplying the necessary expences, as well as of maintaining several children which have been exposed at his door.

A silver medal, and 100*l.* [4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*] were adjudged to Mrs. *Ratler*, wife of a ploughman, who has for near five years taken care of a child left with her to nurse, whose parents she has never since heard of, at the same time having four children of her own.

To Mr. *Vattier*, Mr. *Creuze-la-Touche*, and Mr. *Pressac*, have been given one ram and two ewes of the Spanish breed each.

Various improved implements of agriculture have also been distributed in districts where they appeared to be most wanted.

The following are the questions renewed, or proposed.

1. *A plan of moral education for the inhabitants of the country, calculated on the principles of the new constitution.* It must be composed in such a manner that it may be fit to put into the hands of such for whom it is designed, of any age, and of either sex.

2. *To determine by repeated comparative experiments the best methods of obtaining the fibrous parts of vegetables, and ascertaining their qualities.*

3. *What are the most certain means of obtaining new varieties of vegetables useful in rural or domestic economy? and what are the methods of familiarising different varieties of vegetables to the climate of any country?*

4. *What is the most economical and profitable method of charring wood?*

5. *What are the best means of saving fire-wood, without diminishing that quantity of heat which habit has rendered necessary in a house?*

The prize for N^o 1 is a gold medal: for 2 and 3, 600*l.* [25*l.*] each: and for 4 and 5, 300*l.* [12*l.* 10*s.*] each. The papers on each must be sent to Mr. *Broussonet*, *secrétaire perpétuel*, rue des Blancs-Manteaux, N^o 20, before the 1st of June, 1791.

ART. IV. SOCIETY OF EMULATION, AT BOURG-EN-BRESSE.

The following question, for the prize of 300*l.* [12*l.* 10*s.*], is postponed to the 1st of August, 1792.

What is the general nature of the meadow-land of the province of Bresse: what are the plants most commonly growing there: which of them are prejudicial: and what is the best mode of destroying them? In what respects are the cultivation of meadows, and management of hay, in that province, defective? And how may good meadows be formed in lands

of every quality, particularly beaths or ponds, and what are the plants which would best succeed in them?

THEOLOGY.

ART. V. Paris. *Observations sur le Décret de l'Assemblée Nationale, &c.* Remarks on the Decree of the National Assembly which directs a new Division of Parishes: by Mr. Gregoire. 8vo. 1790.

This tract affords many excellent remarks on the decree of the national assembly, the necessity of a new division of parishes from changes in the state of population, and the duties and functions of a spiritual pastor. 'The affecting emblem of the shepherd and his flock,' says Mr. G., 'vanishes, if the pastor know not all his parishioners. He ought with paternal solicitude to watch over their conduct, support the weak, bring back the wanderer to the right path, reconcile differences, promote the execution of the civil law, and enforce obedience to that of conscience. He ought to traverse wastes, climb rocks, and brave the inclemency of every season, to console the unfortunate, and visit those afflicted with disease. To the tedious tale of the former he will listen with patient attention; nor will he hesitate to respire the putrid miasmata that fill the chamber of the latter. It is his duty to superintend the schools, and assist the ignorance of his parishioners; to guide by his counsels those whom he edifies by his example; to write for one, to advise with a second, and to intercede for a third. Henceforward, too, the zeal of the citizen pastor will have a more extensive sphere of action. His ministry assumes a new aspect whilst he unfolds to a free people, who have regained their rights and their sovereignty, the political principles which unite them to the state, and the religious ones which unite them to God; teaching them the duties of the citizen with those of the christian.' In a note Mr. G. recommends, as a model of pulpit instruction, Ab. Lamourette's Civic Sermons. [See above, p. 118.]

L'Esprit des Journaux.

MEDICINE.

ART. VI. Paris. The month of August was warm and dry: the latter so much as to be injurious to vegetation; on which account fruits were scarce, and the vintage greatly injured. Storms were frequent, and many districts suffered from hail.

It was in general healthy, diseases being rare. Those which prevailed were bilious or rheumatic. Bilious synocha was most common, degenerating into regular putrid fever. Rheumatic complaints were of the acute kind, and required bleeding. Some of these terminated in regular putrid fever. Diarrhoea with colic, slight appearances of dysentery, eruptive diseases, red-gum in children, erysipelas in adults, inflammations of the eyes, and sore throats generally ending with the suppuration of one of the tonsils, were observed during the course of this month. Melancholy affections were very common, frequently terminating in settled alienation of mind. Hemorrhoidal complaints were kept up by moral causes, and exhibited many phenomena, which it may not be amiss hereafter to collect. Chronic diseases offered nothing remarkable. Arthritic complaints were more chronic than acute. Diseases peculiar to women were more frequent and violent than usual.

Journ. de Médecine.

ART.

VII. *Nouveau Plan de Constitution pour la Médecine, &c.* New Plan for the Constitution of Medicine in France: by the Royal Society of Medicine. 4to. 201 p.

It is necessary to be clear, exact, brief, and always veracious, say the authors of this plan. Would to heaven they had had the goodness to join example with precept! then would not a poor reviewer, obliged to read all they think fit to publish, have been condemned to three whole hours of ennui.

Journal de Médecine.

ART. VIII. *Du Service des Hopitaux militaires, &c.* On the Service of military Hospitals, reduced to its true Principles: by Mr. Coste, first Physician to the Camps and Armies of the King. 8vo. 338 p. price sewed 3 l. [2s. 6d.] 1790.

Mr. C. delivers his sentiments on the late changes made in the military hospitals with frankness, and points out their disadvantages both to the soldier, and the public, whilst many old and faithful servants have been wantonly deprived of their bread, to make room for those who had no title but favour. He also enters into the several details of the service, examines the best mode of conducting it, and shows in what respects the military hospitals of France were superior to those of other countries.

Journal de Médecine.

As the accounts of the two preceding articles are anonymous, we suppose they were written by the editor, Mr. Bacher.

ANATOMY.

ART. IX. Gottingen. *J. F. Blumenbachii, &c. Decas Collectionis sue Craniorum diversarum Gentium, &c.* J. F. Blumenbach's Decade of his Collection of Skulls of different Nations illustrated. 30 p. 1790.

Prof. B. proceeds with unwearied diligence to investigate the interesting subject of his inaugural dissertation, the native varieties of the human species, and here gives us an important tract relative to it, in a description of ten skulls from various nations, which is made more instructive and entertaining by his remarks. In selecting these, it was of primary consequence to ascertain their genuineness, and that they were really characteristic of the several nations, not accidental varieties. This the prof. has done as far as possible. The skulls here described are: 1. of an Egyptian mummy. The cranium is small, and pressed together as it were from each side, principally towards the summit. The forehead is small and arched. The remainder of the face from the brow to the chin is long. The eye-brows are very prominent. The orbits are wide, and not far from each other, as the os ethmoides is small. The fossa malaris is deep. The lower jaw is large and strong. The teeth are very large. The occiput projects far backward. 2. Of a Turk. The cranium is nearly spherical. The occiput projects very little backward. The forehead is broad. The space between the eye-brows prominent. The parts of the face are in pleasing proportion. The condyli occipitales are large, and much bent. The aperture of the nose is narrow, and semicircular at the lower part. The alveolar process of the upper jaw is very short. 3. Of an Asiatic (supposed of a Tartar). The form of this is very singular. The summit of the head is elevated, compressed, and boat-

formed (*carinatus*). The sagittal future is obliterated, yet probably not from age, as the others are perfect, the jaw teeth sound, and the dentes sapientiae scarcely cut. The occiput is dependent, and elongated. 4. Of a Cossack. The orbits of the eyes are very deep and wide, but low. The aperture of the nose is wide. The brows are very prominent, and nearly touch each other. The linea semicircularis of the temple rises from the processus malaris of the os frontis into a pointed hill as it were. The angles of the lower jaw are drawn backwards in a manner that may be almost termed monstrous, and are scabrous at the insertion of the masseter muscles. The foramen magnum is small. The os occipitis is extraordinarily thick at the apophyses. The substance of the bones of the cranium is so compact, that parts accidentally worn by friction shine like polished marble. Its specific gravity is consequently great. The other bones of the skeleton, which prof. B. possesses, are similar in this respect. The sternum is near four inches broad. 5. Of a Calmuc. The visage is flat; the cranium depressed; and its bones projecting on each side. The bones of the nose are extremely small, and nearly perpendicular. There are scarcely any arcus supraciliares, and the root of the nose is so little depressed, that from the forehead through the glabella to the nose scarcely any incurvation is perceptible. The aperture of the nose is very small. The fossa malaris is extremely flat. The foramen of the occiput is small, and its condyli flat. The mastoid processes are very small. 6. 7. 8. Of Moors. These three differ much from each other. The lower jaw projects much more in the 2d than in the 3d. The aperture of the nose is very wide in the 3d; in the other two, much narrower: in the 2d its lower edge is sharp; in both the others, rounded. In the 1st the root of the nose is depressed, and has a deep furrow across it: this is less in the 2d, least in the 3d. The ridge of the nose is acute in the 2d; less so in the 1st; rounded in the 3d. The horizontal lamina of the bone of the palate is broadest in the 3d; less in the 2d; in the 1st as small as in any European. The orbits of the eyes very wide in the 3d; very narrow in the 2d. The hinder part of the occiput projects so as almost to form a point in the 2d; in the 3d it is nearly spherical. The 2d is much thicker and heavier than either of the others. 9. Of a North American. The cranium is depressed, broad, and projecting superiorly on each side. The aperture of the nose is very wide, and the conchæ mediae at the same time hollowed out into a kind of bladders. The dentes incisarii are short but very sharp. The frontal future is not obliterated. The whole cranium is very light, and its bones are very thin. 10. Of a Caribee of the island of St. Vincent's. The forehead is pressed backwards. The orbits of the eyes are very wide and turned upwards, as the lamina orbitalis of the os frontis has a considerable inclination. The distance of the os unguis from the sulcus supraorbitalis is thence very great. The parietal bones project greatly on each side. The bones of the nose are very long. The dentes incisarii are shaped like a cylinder cut off obliquely from behind, where they have a longitudinal furrow. The forms of the ossa parietalia and frontis are probably owing to pressure at an early age.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

CHEMIS-

CHEMISTRY.

ART. X. *Sur l'Action de la Lumiere solaire pour blanchir la Cire jaune, &c.* On the Action of the Light of the Sun in bleaching yellow Wax: by Mr. J. Sennebier. *Journal de Physique.*

Doubting the supposed effect of dew or water upon wax in bleaching, Mr. S. enclosed yellow wax between two glass plates, by pouring it upon one of them, and applying the other upon it: after which he closed the edges of the two glasses with sealing-wax. An apparatus of this kind being exposed to the sun's light, from the 10th of April to the 10th of May, the wax was completely bleached in all parts which did not exceed two lines in thickness. Another apparatus inclosed in a wafer box in the same exposure remained perfectly yellow. Wax spread out upon a similar plate of glass, but not covered with another plate, was bleached by the sun's light, though rather more slowly than the former. Another plate of glass and wax of this last kind being kept in the dark was not bleached. Yellow wax moistened, or kept under water, was bleached more slowly than that of the first apparatus. From this and other experiments, Mr. S. ascertains that the dew has no part in the bleaching. The following part of his memoir contains an account of the experiments of Beckman and others, which well deserve to be consulted.

ART. XI. *Extrait d'une Lettre de M. Crell, &c.* Extract of a Letter from Mr. Crell on a new metallic Substance called the Menackanite from Cornwall, discovered by Mr. Gregor.

This earth is black, and resembles gun-powder: it is soluble in vitriolic acid, which it renders yellowish: if polished iron be added to this it becomes red, inclining to the colour of the amethyst: phlogisticated alkali added to this solution affords a white yellow precipitate: the tincture of nutgalls causes the same solution to assume an orange colour: if the nitrous acid be added to the first solution, it turns it blue; if to the solution which has been changed by nutgalls, it turns it black: manganese produces nearly the same effect with both liquors. Mr. Gregor obtained a regulus from the earth by reduction.

This letter also contains various confirmations of the discoveries of the new metals.

ART. XII. The following letter from Mr. *Westrumb* we shall give as literally as possible, from the *Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung* of Jena.

From the moment that the metallization of simple earths at Schemnitz was first made public, I have been making many experiments on the subject. The results of my first attempts compelled me to deny the fact, from experience, and from reasons that must be obvious to every one who is not a novice in chemistry. However, about the end of November last, as I obtained larger reguli from calcareous, magnesian, and aluminous earths than before; and, on the other hand, as powdered crucibles and oil, and coal and oil, afforded me no reguli, as they formerly had; I embraced the opinion of Mr. von Ruprecht, and, in a fit of conviction, sent Mr. Crell a memoir in favour of the capability of earths being metallized, which he has published, or will publish, in his chemical annals. The account of my experiments, which has appeared in the *Allg. Lit. Zeit.* [see our Rev. p. 111, of this

this vol.] seems, I know not how, to have come from him. A long series of experiments, in which I have been employed from that time to the middle of January nearly, compels me to regret that precipitancy. For I now know, as I shall soon more fully show, *that the supposed reguli of earths proceed almost all from the crucibles themselves, and in all probability are nothing but iron.* I have this moment obtained small reguli, attracted by the magnet, from several lids of crucibles, with which I had covered the mixtures of alkali and oil, coal and oil, and powdered crucibles and oil. These seem to have sweated out of the crucibles, and adhere to their internal surface in a glassy shell. I readily admit, that it does not become me to consider the point as decided; but I think I ought to say, that Mess. Lefius, Murray, and Bischoff, who were the constant companions of my labours, are of the same opinion with myself.

Hameln, Jan. 15, 1791.

Bergcommissar Westrumb.

To this we shall subjoin, from the same journal, an extract of a letter from Mr. Karsten, dated Berlin, Feb. 3, which confirms the above account.

Mr. K. tells us, that a variety of experiments were performed in his laboratory, at the royal mint, under the direction of prof. Klaproth, and in the presence of Dr. Hermbstädt, the mine-secretary Wähler, and the mint-warden Frik, and occasionally some others; of which experiments the following were the results.

1. Extremely pure simple earths, exposed to the strongest fire of a double bellows furnace, which fused the substance of the Ipser crucibles used both as a support and to contract the furnace above, were perfectly infusible, if they were not in contact with the crucible.
2. On the other hand, calcareous, heavy, and magnesian earths, were fused into a perfect glaze where they came into contact with the inside of an Hessian crucible.
3. Either of these, mixed with coal-powder, linseed oil, and calcined bones, and put into a Hessian crucible, afforded more or less bright gray metallic grains; which, however, were not found at the bottom, but partly in the middle of the mass, partly on the outside next the crucible. Their proportion was always very small: when three drams of magnesia, dried by a red heat, were used, never more than three grains and half of metal were collected, and seldom more than two.
4. The same mass, being put into Hessian assay-dutes, so lined with coal-powder by means of gum-water, that its actual contact with them was impossible, similar grains of metal were produced; yet only at the inner surface of the dutes: the earths were not fused, and none of the grains were found in the mass, or near it.
5. Also the purest coal-powder, mixed with linseed oil and calcined bones, treated in the same manner in Hessian crucibles, without any earth, produced similar metallic grains.
6. Earths treated in the same way, in crucibles of the finest porcelain composition of the manufacture here, with covers of the same, afforded not the least grain of metal.
7. Magnesia being thus treated in porcelain crucibles with covers made of the same substance as the Hessian crucibles, similar metallic grains were found on the surface, as well on the calcined bones which were baked together, as on the fused magnesia, and but lightly sunk into the mass, so that at least one-third of each remained above it.

From

From these experiments it appears, that the grains of metal obtained proceeded from the substance of the crucibles; and this the examination of them confirmed: for those which were capable of being attracted by the magnet in their simple state, showed themselves to be nothing but common iron, whilst the greater part, which were so only when powdered, appeared to be siderite. The last was decidedly proved by dissolving the grains in aqua regia, and precipitating by vitriolic acid. This was considered as a proof of the contrary at Vienna; the precipitate being deemed selenite, whilst the metal obtained with calcareous earth alone was used. But metal obtained with magnesia gave a similar precipitate: and it was clear, that the precipitate in both cases was a true phosphorated calx of iron, as well from its other properties, as from its instant reduction upon a coal with borax by means of the blow-pipe. At the public meeting of the Academy of Sciences yesterday, prof. Klaproth read a paper, in which he gave a more ample account of the above experiments, with various instructive chemical reflections, and cautions on the circumspection necessary in chemical experiments, and on the possibility of being misled by seeming discoveries. This paper will shortly appear entire in *Gren's Journal der Physik*, and in the *Bergmännische Journale*.

NATURAL KNOWLEDGE.

ART. XIII. *Lettre de M. de Luc, &c.* Letter from Mr. de Luc on the Formation of the calcareous Strata of the Earth, their first Catastrophes, and volcanic Eruptions. *Journ. de Physique.*

In this letter, Mr. de L. endeavours to show the futility of the supposition that the calcareous strata were formed of the remains of marine animals. He observes, that the sole argument on which it bottoms is the existence of such remains in those strata: but there are calcareous strata in which there are none of those remains, similar kinds are found in calcareous strata of different species, different kinds are found in calcareous strata of the same species, and equally great masses of the very same kinds are found in siliceous and argillaceous strata. The idea of precipitation then appears to be the only one admissible.

Mr. de L. having, in the preceding letter, noticed the first four periods of terrestrial revolutions, now proceeds to a fifth, in which our grand chains of mountains were formed. In this, the part of the crust which formed the bottom of the ancient sea, gave way in various places, and whilst one edge of the vast fragments sunk down, the other would rest against the solid ramifications that supported the shell. In this position, the adhesion of the different strata to each other not being equal to that between the strata of the same kind, the first formed, or granitic, would remain at the summit; the next, or schistous, would slide lower on that, and constitute the second rank in the chain; whilst the calcareous, which was formed still later, being precipitated from the sea whilst the other two were its bottom, would slide on the schistous, and become the last. Deviations from this order would occasionally arise from slighter catastrophes of a similar nature, and other phenomena.

During this period also it may be presumed volcanic eruptions took place, as we find their products intermingled with subsequently formed strata, but never with the primordial ones; and the water introduced
within

within the crust by this second grand catastrophe of it would have undergone some changes in its nature, whence it might give birth to new effects. That the seat of volcanoes exists beneath that crust, appears from the consideration, that the accension of pyrites in the argillaceous strata, sufficiently soft for that purpose, would be incapable of raising such quantities of lava to the height we frequently find them carried, as the superincumbent mass would be too feeble to form sufficient resistance. This too is in some measure confirmed by the fragments of granite found amongst the lava of ancient volcanoes, and thrown up by those which now exist: proofs that they passed through strata of that class.

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

ART. XIV. *Lettre de M. van Marum, &c.* Letter from Mr. van Marum to Mr. de la Métherie. *Journal de Physique.*

In this letter, Mr. Van M. gives an account of experiments by which he has clearly determined, that the electric shock and thunder-strokes destroy life by depriving the animal system of irritability. His experiments were made on eels, which have the faculty of preserving their irritability for some hours after they have been cut in pieces, or otherwise mortally injured. The eels which were subjected to the stroke of the great Haerlem battery, which contains 550 square feet of coated surface, were instantly deprived of all irritability: and when experiments were made by passing the shock through only part of the creature, the other part which had not received the shock, was not deprived of irritability, though the most powerful stimuli were incapable of irritating in the slightest degree the parts through which the stroke had passed.

NATURAL HISTORY.

ART. XV. *Hamburg.* The collection of insects of the late Dr. Schultze, consisting of 1012 coleoptera, 269 hemiptera, 1211 lepidoptera, 76 neuroptera, 312 hymenoptera, 166 diptera, and 117 aptera, is to be disposed of. Each species is in a separate case, between double glasses well cemented. The cases are all made proportionate to each other; and the name of the genus and species, with a reference to Linné or Fabricius, is written in white paint on the black frame. The doctor's *hortus ficus*, containing 2800 species of plants, is also to be sold. Any one who wishes to purchase either may apply to Mr. F. K. Schultze, in der düstern Strasse, N^o 153.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

ART. XVI. *Berlin.* A large and curious collection of shells, corals, minerals, petrefactions, gems rough and polished, marbles, animals preserved in spirits, ancient and Indian weapons, casts in plaster and wax, horns, bones, &c. of animals, optical instruments, &c. is to be disposed of, together or in parcels, by Mad. Rebel, an der Petri-kirche, im goldenen Reb, where they may be seen.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

BOTANY.

ART. XVII. Lisbon. *Flora Cochinchinensis*, &c. Fl. Co. containing the Plants growing in the Kingdom of Cochin-China : to which are added, Others observed in the Empire of China, in the eastern Parts of Africa, and various Places in India : all arranged according to the sexual System of Linnè : by J. de Loureiro. Large 4to. Vol. I. 373 p. Vol. II. 365 p. 1790.

This work unquestionably forms a valuable addition to our knowledge of plants. Mr. L. resided thirty-six years in Cochin-China, whither he was sent as a missionary ; and the prudence of his conduct not only protected him from molestation, though privately pursuing an employment contrary to the law of the land, but procured him such favour with the king, that he winked at his endeavours, and appointed him president of mathematics and natural philosophy at the court. Finding nothing would so much promote his grand object as furnishing the sick with proper medicines, and those of Europe being there extremely expensive, he conceived the design of forming a *materia medica* from the productions of the country. For this purpose he applied himself to the study of botany, and was fortunately supplied with the works of Linnè, by capt. Riddel, an Englishman, then at Canton. To his proficiency in this study we are indebted for the work which we here announce from the *Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung* of Jena, and of which we intend to give our readers an ample account as soon as we can procure it.

ART. XVIII. *Dominici Vandelli Viridarium Grisley Lusitanicum*, &c. Grisley's Plants of Portugal, illustrated with the Linnean Names : by D. Vandelli. Published by Order of the Royal Academy. 8vo. 134 p. 1789.

Mr. V. has rendered Grisley's work somewhat more intelligible, but from its defectiveness, and his having retained the alphabetical arrangement, it will be of no great general use. His own *Flora Lusitanica*, on which he tells us in his preface he has been long employed, will be, no doubt, a much more valuable present to botanists.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

MINERALOGY.

ART. XIX. *Analyse d'une Mine de Laiton*, &c. Analysis of a Mine of Brass at Pifa in Tuscany : by Mr. Sage. *Journ. de Physique*.

The ancients distinguished two kinds of copper ; that of Cyprus, which was red ; and that of Corinth, which was yellow. Though the latter has been supposed to have consisted of a mixture of gold, silver, and copper, it appears more probable to me, that it was the produce of a mine containing copper and zinc. From the rarity of the copper of Corinth, its price was exorbitant ; from its beauty it was preferred to gold : had it been the composition above-mentioned, to have imitated it could not have been difficult. In collections of ancient coins we find pieces of brass ; and, as the mode of making it is not described in any of the works of the ancients, I am inclined to believe, that they were struck in the *aurichalcum* out of curiosity. We are indebted to the German metallurgists of the 13th century for the art of making brass from a mixture of zinc and copper : and no mines
uniting

uniting the two in due proportion for that purpose have yet been mentioned by mineralogists. In the environs of Pisa there is a mine of calamine, of a dirty gray colour, spotted with blend of a blackish gray, dull and foliated. Brown martial earth, and white quartz, are also found in this calamine. But the characteristics of this mine are crystals of lapis calaminaris of a blueish white, foliated and pearly, resembling steatites: these crystals, which appear on its surface, frequently exhibit elongated lamina, diverging nearly like zeolite. To reduce this ore, I melted it with one-third of its weight of powdered charcoal, and four parts of black flux. When the mixture was in fusion, a part of the zinc burnt and exhaled, producing a blue and green flame: as soon as this ceased, I withdrew the crucible from the fire, and when cool, I found under the scoriæ a button of ductile brass, of a most beautiful colour, and in the proportion of twelve pounds to the quintal of ore.

M A T H E M A T I C S.

ART. XX. Pavia. *Sopra la Theoria de Pendoli, &c.* On the Theory of Pendulums, and the Law of the Centripetal Force proportional to the simple Distance of the Centre, and its Application to the Doctrine of Pendulums: by P. D. Greg. Fontana, Prof. of Math. 8vo.

The first of these discourses treats on the oscillations of pendulums applied to time-pieces. Prof. F. demonstrates that the isochronism of oscillations in cycloidal arcs cannot take place in them, and from simple mechanical principles deduces the following theorem. If two moveable points, impelled with unequal forces, descend through the arc of a cycloid, the times of their descent will be in a subduplicate reciprocal ratio of their forces: whence it necessarily follows, that the action of the scapement varying, as well as that of the moving weight, or the powers by which the pendulum is impelled varying, the times of its vibrations must vary in the same proportion. The second discourse is on the law of centripetal powers expressed in the title. They both bear the marks of that inventive genius, and geometrical elegance, which distinguish the works of their author.

Efemeridi letterarie di Roma.

P O L I T I C A L O E C O N O M Y.

ART. XXI. Paris. *Essai sur la Mendicité, &c.* An Essay on Mendicity: by Mr. de Montlinot.

Mr. de M. has, for some time, superintended the poor of Soissons, and has viewed their situation with a philosophic eye. The mode of life of a most useful part of society, the labouring class, renders its members at an early age unable to procure their subsistence, and their gains, when in a state of vigour, are too small to allow them to make any provision for the future. It is the duty, therefore, of that society which they have served, to supply their wants when they can serve it no longer. This truth the committee of the National Assembly has admitted and proclaimed, and we trust, that the indigent, no longer considered as a separate part of the community, will find their state rendered supportable under the present constitution. They who from idleness have embraced the state of mendicancy, or live by despoiling
the

the public, are to be considered in a different point of view. For these, as well as for all who are able to work but cannot find employment, Mr. de M. proposes the establishment of a colony on the island of Bulam, on the coast of Africa, which would render them less burdensome to the community, and secure society from many depredations to which it is now exposed.

Mercur de France.

HISTORY.

ART. XXII. Paris. *Discours historique sur le Caractere & la Politique de Louis XI. &c.* An historical Discourse on the Character and Politics of Louis XI. by a Citizen of the Section of the Theatre François. Year of Liberty 2.

The author's epistle dedicatory to his fellow-citizens is a model of sense and brevity. It is followed by an advertisement, which informs us, that he has read every thing that has been published relative to Louis XI. besides several valuable manuscripts, the most important of which is the original of ab. Joachim le Grand, in 4 vols. fol. This, indeed, was used by the late Mr. Duclos: but he copied from it servilely, without availing himself of the information it contained with the spirit of a freeman and a citizen, as it was by no means his intention to depict tyranny in its proper colours. Our author appears to have executed his task with an impartial hand, and not to have overcharged his portrait at the expence of truth, while he paints a detestable tyrant, yet a prince far from destitute of abilities, the perturbation of whose mind in his latter days was but the consequence, and at the same time the just punishment, of his former crimes.

L'Esprit des Journaux.

ART. XXIII. Schwerin. *Codex diplomaticus Historiæ Megapolitanæ, &c.* State Papers relative to the History of Mecklenburg. Part I. II. 4to. 394 p.

As no other province in Germany can boast such diplomas as are to be found in Mecklenburg, where peculiar rights and privileges have been conferred on towns, monasteries, and nobles, the utility of this collection will not be confined to the elucidation of the history of that province. Mr. Rudloff, therefore, has here made a valuable present to the public.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

BIOGRAPHY.

ART. XXIV. Lisbon. *Vida do Infante Dom Duarte, &c.* The Life of the Infant Don Edward: by And. de Rezende: published by the Royal Academy of Sciences. 8vo. 63 p. 1789.

This interesting publication leads us to hope, that the academy will rescue more literary treasures from the dust of monastic libraries. It is written in the spirit of the ancients, is rich in characteristic traits of the Portuguese nation at its most flourishing period, and its style is that of the golden age of Portuguese literature. The faults with which it swarms, have, it is true, given occasion to an academician to deny its authenticity: but these only prove it to be a careless copy from a faulty manuscript, as it certainly came from the hand of no other than the celebrated author of the *Antiquitates Lusitanæ*.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

ART.

ART. XXV. Parma. *Elogio del Conte Zaccaria Betti*. Eulogy of Count Z. Betti. 1790.

This eulogy, the author of which is Mr. Benj. del Bene, consists chiefly of an account of the writings of count B. whose talents procured him the reward of nobility, and a medal struck in his honour: and who had an annual pension, that he might apply himself to subjects of commerce, exchange, and public economy.

Giornale enciclopedico d'Italia.

GEOGRAPHY. TOPOGRAPHY.

ART. XXVI. Paris. *Description des principaux Lieux de la France, &c.* A Description of the principal Places in France, containing descriptive and historical Accounts of the Provinces, Cities, Towns, Monasteries, Castles, &c. of the Kingdom, remarkable for any Curiosities of Art or Nature, or interesting and singular Events, with Remarks on the Trade, Population, Customs, and Character of every People in France, interspersed with critical Observations, and illustrated with Maps: by J. A. Dulaure. Vol. I.—IV. 12mo. price sewed, 2 l. 10 s. [2s. 1d.] bound 3 l. [2s. 6d.] each. 1789.

Mr. D. is already known by a description of Paris, and another of its environs. These two works, though severely criticised, have been read with avidity: the same fate, probably, awaits this. It is every where interspersed with the same poignancy and entertainment, nor will some erroneous dates, or facts on the veracity of which it would be easy to raise doubts, prevent it from pleasing the generality of readers.

The first volume gives an account of Provence: the second, of Languedoc and Roussillon: the third, of Quercy, Rouergue, Guienne, Gascogne, Bearn, Navarre, Saintonge, Angoumois, and Aunis: the fourth, of Poitou, Limousin, and Marche.

In the city of Bayonne we have a striking instance of depopulation. Its inhabitants, in 1762 and 3, were reckoned to be twenty-five thousand, and at present it does not contain ten thousand: in the neighbouring country the decrease is proportional. Of the Poitevins Mr. D. says, they have always been distinguished for their gallantry, as they are even now. In the fourteenth century there was a curious sect amongst them, the members of which gloried in being martyrs to love, and in braving the inclemency of the weather, in the most severe seasons, almost naked, in order to prove the force of their passion; so that many lovers and their mistresses literally perished with cold side by side, whilst telling amorous tales, and laughing at those who were less mad than themselves.

Mr. Ameilhon. Journ. des Savans.

P O E T R Y.

ART. XXVII. Gottingen. *Gedichte von G. A. Bürger*. Poems by G. A. Bürger. 2 vols. 8vo. 568 p. with plates. Price 1 r. 16g. [6s.] 1789.

These lyric poems afford ample food for criticism, yet are they of no common rank. We consider Mr. B. as not less excelling our present race of lyric poets, than falling short of that summit of perfection which is easier imagined than attained.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

D R A M A.

ART. XXVIII. Paris. *De la Saltation Théâtrale, &c.* On Theatrical Dancing, or Inquiries into the Origin, Progress, and Effects of Pantomime amongst the Ancients, with nine coloured Plates. A Dissertation which obtained the double Prize from the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, in November, 1789. By Mr. de Laulnay.

This work, replete with erudition, contains almost all that we know of the *Mimes*, or dancers, Greek or Latin. Pantomime, however, properly so called, was unquestionably unknown till the time of Augustus, though Mr. de L. ascribes to it far greater antiquity. He considers David, and even the daughter of Jephtha, as having practised a species of it: but in this he certainly misapplies the term.

Mr. Dupuy. *Journ. des Sçavans.*

ART. XXIX. Royal Academy of Music. Dec. 14, was performed here for the first time *Psyche*, an Anacreontic ballet in three acts, by Mr. Gardel.

The scenery of this piece is superb, the story is the offspring of a truly poetic imagination, and assisted as it was by the utmost truth of expression in the pantomime of the performers, we may pronounce it a *chef d'œuvre*.

L'Esprit des Journaux.

ART. XXX. Stockholm. *Cora: Opera Trei Acter, &c.* Cora: an Opera in Three Acts: represented on the new Theatre of the Royal Academy of Music at Stockholm.

The subject of this piece, taken from the Incas of Marmontel, was selected by the king of Sweden; and Mr. Adlerbeth, to whom he gave it, has treated it in a masterly manner. It forms a superb spectacle, and displays the pernicious tendency of monachal superstition with great force.

Two serious pieces, taken from Swedish history, *Siri Brabe* & *Jean Gyllenstierna*, and *Helmfeld, or the lost Son discovered*, and a comedy, each of which would do credit to the talents of any professed man of letters, have likewise been performed here with great success. Their author, though anonymous, is known to be the king. Like all the rest of his works, they breathe the purest morality, and the most ardent zeal for the duties of the man and the citizen. A tragedy also, *Sune Jarl*, by count Gyllenborg [author of an epic poem, called *The Passage of the Belt*, which we have heard highly spoken of, and of which we mean to give some account as soon as we can procure it], and another by Mr. Rosenheim, entitled *Frode*, both taken from the history of Sweden, have been performed with much approbation. *Odin, eller Asarnes Utvandring*, "Odin, or the Emigration of the Scythians," a tragedy, by Mr. Leopold, has been received too with great applause.

L'Esprit des Journaux.

MISCELLANIES.

ART. XXXI. Paris. *Paroles mémorables, recueillies par Gab. Brotier, &c.* Memorable Sayings, collected by G. Brotier, late Librarian to the College of Louis-le-Grand. 12mo.

These sayings are not of very ancient date; and amongst many already known, we find many well deserving notice, which had lain buried

buried in oblivion. The names of Henry IV. Louis XIV. Condé, Turenne, Montecuculi, Colbert, and Sully, are most distinguished in this collection. We hope Mr. A. C. Brotier, the editor, will soon favour the world with the remaining posthumous works of his late uncle.

Journal Encyclopédique.

E D U C A T I O N.

ART. XXXII. Leipzig and Nuremberg. *Beschreibung eines mathematisch-physicalischen Maschinen und Instrumentencabinet, &c.* Description of a Cabinet of mathematical and philosophical Instruments, and of the Experiments to be performed with them: for the Use of Schools: by J. Conrad Gütle. Vol. 1. 8vo. 312 p. 12 plates. 1790.

This volume relates to electricity. Mr. G. first gives an explanation of the technical terms used in the science, with a brief history of it, and a sketch of the different hypotheses respecting the matter of the electric fluid. He then proceeds to describe the various instruments employed in electrical experiments, their uses, and the defects and advantages of different ones.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

ART. XXXIII. Brunswick. *Gemeinnützige Spaziergänge auf alle Tage im Jahre, &c.* Useful Walks for every Day in the Year, for Parents, Governors, Schoolmasters, and private Tutors; for the Improvement of Knowledge by Inspection, particularly of the Laws of Nature, and Processes of rural and domestic Economy: by Chr. C. Andre and J. Mat. Bechstein. 8vo. 446 p. Price 20g. [3s.] 1790.

The mode of teaching here adopted is undoubtedly a good one, but it frequently brings things together in an unconnected manner, in which respect too the authors have been perhaps somewhat negligent: the objects selected by them are, however, in general well chosen.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

ART. XXXIV. Erlangen. *Allgemeines Lesebuch für den Bürger und Landmann, &c.* A Book of general Instruction for People in the lower Ranks of Life, principally intended for the Use of Schools: by Dr. G. F. Seiler. 8vo. 556 p.

This book we can warmly recommend on account of the utility of its instructions, the value and authenticity of its information, and its suitableness to the capacities of those for whom it is designed.

Jen. Allg. Lit. Zeit.

M A G I C.

ART. XXXV. In the *Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung* of Jena we find the following notice to the public.

Various magic manuscripts, with the requisites for formally raising spirits, to be sold. Amateurs may apply by letter, post paid, to Joh. Fr. Dost, at Halle in the duchy of Magdeburg. Feb. 1791.